



Santa Cruz County Women's Commission

701 Ocean Street, Fifth Floor, Room 510
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2772 (F) 831-454-2411 TTY/TDD: 711
commissions@santacruzcounty.us
www.sccwc.org

Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

Date: Thursday, September 17, 2020
Time: 6:00 to 7:30 PM

In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency and pursuant to the provisions of the governor's Executive Order N-29-20, issued March 17, 2020, this will be a remote meeting. No physical location will be available, but access to the meeting and an opportunity to comment will be provided. Please dial-in to the teleconference using the information listed below:

TELECONFERENCE INFORMATION

United States: 1 (571) 317-3116
United States (Toll Free): 1 (866) 899-4679
Access Code: 544-450-925

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review
2. Approve *July 30, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes*
3. Correspondence
4. Public Comment:
Any person may address the Commission for a period not to exceed five minutes on matters within the jurisdiction of the Commission.
5. Continuing Business/Action Items:
 - 5.1. Commission COVID-19 Response
 - 5.1.1. *Lideres Campesinas - Women Farmworker Leadership Network*
Irene de Barraicua, Public Relations Manager
 - 5.2. Black Lives Matter Movement Letter of Support
 - 5.3. *Status of Women and Girls Report: 2020 Health Care Update*
6. Reports of Officers and Ad Hoc Subcommittees
 - 6.1. Co-Chairs Report
 - 6.2. 2020 Suffrage Art Wall Subcommittee Update
 - 6.3. Public Awareness Subcommittee Update
7. Staff Report
8. Adjournment

The next regular scheduled meeting is on Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 6:00 PM

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs or activities. If you require special assistance to participate, please call (831) 454-2772 (TTY/TDD: 711) at least 72 hours in advance to make arrangements.



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Special Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, July 30, 2020
TIME: 6:00 to 7:00 PM
LOCATION: Remote meeting
PRESENT: Jillian Ritter (Co-Chair, 1st District), Theresa Cariño (Co-Chair, 1st District), Carrie Beaton (2nd District), Maryanne Campbell (3rd District), Maria Boutell (3rd District), Luci Basor (4th District), Jenny Sarmiento (4th District), Sheila De Lany (5th District), Rachel Bickert (5th District)
EXCUSED: None
ABSENT: Laurel Schonfield (2nd District)
STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Coordinator*), Sarah Husin (*Research Intern*)
GUESTS: Juan Hidalgo (*Agricultural Commissioner*), Irene O'Connell and Maria Ramos Bracamonte (*Campesinx Womb Care*), Rosemary Brogan (*Cabrillo College Women's History Professor*), Janet Allinger (*Artist*), Emily Aranda (*Artist*) Jan Carter (*Artist*), Ria Devine (*Artist*), Priscilla Martinez (*Artist*), Jasmine Simone (*Artist*), Jenni Veich-Olson (*Planned Parenthood*)

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 6:03 PM.

Motion to approve meeting agenda

Motion/Second: De Lany/Cariño

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Review and Approve June 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion/Second: De Lany/Beaton

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Correspondence

None.

4. Public Comment:

Veich-Olson summarized Planned Parenthood service delivery in pandemic conditions. Seventy percent of services are now being delivered via telehealth, with the remaining being either curbside pickup or office visits with social distancing protocols.

5. New Business/Action Items:

5.1. Commission COVID-19 Response

5.1.1. County Agricultural Commissioner Report

Hidalgo reported that his office has been working with community partners since April on a coordinated to COVID-19 response to support the farm-working community. A surplus of constantly changing information available, often conflicting or vague, is contributing to apathy or confusion in in the

community's response to disease prevention protocols. Support efforts include PPE distribution, wage replacement, rental assistance, and food distribution. Next steps will include providing additional testing, isolation housing, and further financial support. Commission is asked to share information with their community.

5.1.2. *The Campesinx Womb Care Project*

O'Connell and Bracamonte summarized the *Capesinx Womb Care Project's* COVID-19 response efforts. The project is partnering with the *Center for Farmworker Families* to distribute more than 150 care packages per month containing feminine hygiene supplies, masks, and soap. Many of the recipients are undocumented. Financial support and donations of sustainable, washable feminine hygiene supplies, nursing bras, baby clothes, cloth diapers, and hand sanitizer are all needed.

5.2. 2020 Women's Suffrage Art Wall

- 5.2.1. Brogan is working with staff to develop a local women's suffrage timeline emphasizing how diverse cultural influences contributed to the success of the movement in California and Santa Cruz specifically. Santa Cruz actually voted in favor of women's suffrage in 1896, but the State of California overrode that decision.
- 5.2.2. Allinger, Aranda, Carter, Devine, Martinez and Simone presented their re-imagined women's suffrage posters which have been updated to reflect the diversity of our community and the importance of votes from marginalized groups. Commission offered feedback and suggested that the Commission on Disabilities also review the poster representing women with disabilities for their feedback as well.

6. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Coordinator*



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September 17, 2020
Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors
701 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: Support for the *Black Lives Matter Movement*

Dear Members of the Board:

The purpose of this letter is to express our formal support for the *Black Lives Matter Movement* and to applaud your continued commitment to anti-racism efforts in Santa Cruz County.

The *Santa Cruz County Women's Commission* is tasked with representing the interests of Santa Cruz County women. To that end, we recognize that not all Santa Cruz County women have equal voices and opportunities yet. As progressive as this County may be, there remain women who continue to be marginalized because of their race or ethnicity. Recent *Black Lives Matter Movement* efforts, including those of local activist Esabella Bonner, have galvanized our own commitment to addressing remaining racial or ethnic disparities impacting the experience of women and their children in Santa Cruz County.

The killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery, Elijah McClain and countless others highlight the pervasive racism and deeply-rooted social injustice that plague this nation. The institutionalized violence that continues to impact the collective experience of all people of color demands an urgent response. To that end, we join in solidarity with millions of other Americans to take a stand against racism, injustice and hate, particularly as they affect women of color and their children.

Your Board has always demonstrated a commitment to providing equal opportunity, respect and advancement for people of color in Santa Cruz County, including your recent *Resolution declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis*. Today, we acknowledge your commitment to anti-racism and request your continued support for any local, State or national legislation that also seeks to eliminate and protect against systemic racism and institutionalized violence against people of color.

On behalf of the *Santa Cruz County Women's Commission*, we thank you for your continued support for women of color and their children in Santa Cruz County.

Respectfully,

Jillian Ritter, *Commission Co-Chair*

Theresa M. Cariño, *Commission Co-Chair*



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: John Leopold, First District Supervisor, Ryan Coonerty, Third District Supervisor

(831) 454-2200

Subject: Resolution Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis

Meeting Date: August 18, 2020

Recommended Action(s):

- 1) Adopt a resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis;
- 2) Direct County departments to develop plans to incorporate educational efforts to address and dismantle racism, and expand understanding of racism and how racism affects individual and population health;
- 3) Commit to conduct all human resources, vendor selection and grant management activities with a racial equity lens including reviewing all internal policies and practices such as hiring, promotions, leadership appointments and funding;
- 4) Promote racially equitable economic and workforce development practices; promote and encourage all policies that prioritize the health of people of color and mitigate exposure to adverse childhood experience and trauma in childhood;
- 5) Train all elected officials and staff on workplace biases and how to mitigate them; partner and build alliances with local organizations that have a legacy and track record of confronting racism; and
- 6) Encourage community partners and stakeholders in the education, employment, housing, criminal justice and safety arenas to recognize racism as a public health crisis and to activate the above items.

Executive Summary

As our entire nation wrestles with its past history of racism, communities across the nation are asking their leaders to proactively address the issues of racism in every community. While many consider our community a welcoming and inclusive community, we also know of many incidents of racism both in our past and in our present. Additionally, as we confront the COVID-19 pandemic, we can clearly see the disproportionate effects on communities of color in our county. This declaration directs County government to consciously address issues of racism in our community as a way to acknowledge that racism affects the health of our community on an individual and community-wide basis.

Background

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), "Public health is defined as 'the art and science of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organized efforts of society.' Activities to strengthen public health capacities and service aim to provide conditions under which people can maintain to be healthy, improve their health and well-being, or prevent the deterioration of their health."

While our county has worked hard to look through an equity lens in the provision of services, we have a history of racist actions against the Chinese, the Latinx community,

Native American and the Black community. Even today, as we look at the demographics of those infected with the COVID-19 virus, we see communities of color, specially the Latinx community, disproportionately affected.

As our nation has witnessed with the alarming number of Black lives lost in senseless acts of violence and disregard, the Black Lives Matter movement and others has organized mostly peaceful protest to call our attention to these racist incidents and “say the names” of those who have died” George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and others. They seek to raise our awareness and generate a call to action in our community.

The local NAACP chapter has reached out to County officials to better understand the budgeting decisions that we are making. They seek funding for critical social services that meet the needs of the community. Sheriff Jim Hart has offered to meet with the NAACP to examine the dynamics that have resulted in a great proportion of the Black community in the County Jail as compared to the general population of the county.

Analysis

Dr. George Benjamin, Executive Director of the American Public Health Association said, “We see discrimination every day in all aspects of life, including housing, education, the criminal justice system and employment. And it is amplified during this pandemic as communities of color face inequities in everything from a greater burden of COVID-19 cases to less access to testing, treatment and care. Americans cannot be silent about this.”

Racism structures opportunity and assigns value based on how a person looks. The result: conditions that unfairly advantage some and unfairly disadvantage others.

Racism hurts the health of our nation by preventing some people the opportunity to attain their highest level of health.

Racism may be intentional or unintentional. It operates at various levels in society.

Racism is a driving force of the social determinants of health and is a barrier to health equity.

A declaration of racism as a public health crisis elevates the issue to be at the forefront of our programming decisions. Committed efforts to ensure our hiring, vendor selection, funding decisions are free of implicit bias is critical to assuring the community that County government is meeting the needs of all of its residents.

Other communities across the Country have declared racism a public health crisis including the County of Santa Clara, City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Madison County, Cook County, the City of Pittsburgh, the City of Boston, Kansas City and the State of Arizona.

As Martin Luther King, Jr. observed, “The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people.

Strategic Plan Element(s)

1A: Comprehensive Health and Safety: Health Equity

1B: Comprehensive Health and Safety: Community Support

1C: Comprehensive Health and Safety: Local Justice

Submitted by:

John Leopold, First District Supervisor, Ryan Coonerty, Third District Supervisor

Attachments:

a Resolution - Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis

cc:

County Administrative Office

(10) encouraging community partners and stakeholders in the education, employment, housing, criminal justice and safety arenas to recognize racism as a public health crisis and to activate the above items; and

(11) securing adequate resources to successfully accomplish the above activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County of Santa Cruz will encourage other local, state, and national entities to recognize racism as a public health crisis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors does hereby support the efforts to address public health disparities due to racial inequities throughout Santa Cruz County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this ____ day of _____ 2020, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Chair of the Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: _____
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Jm Heats 8/12/2020
Office of the County Counsel

DISTRIBUTION: County Administrative Office

Attachment: Resolution - Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis (9486 : Resolution Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis)

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

RESOLUTION NO. 176-2020

On the motion of: Leopold
duly seconded by: Friend
the following resolution is adopted:

RESOLUTION DECLARING RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

The Board of Supervisors of Santa Cruz County hereby finds and declares the following:

WHEREAS, race is a social construct with no biological basis that artificially divides people into distinct groups based on characteristics such as physical appearance, ancestral heritage, cultural affiliation, and the social, economic, and political needs of a society at a given period; and

WHEREAS, throughout our nation's history, institutional and structural racism and injustice have led to deepening racial disparities across all sectors and have had lasting negative consequences for the County of Santa Cruz; and

WHEREAS, Public Health Awareness raises awareness of the relationship between the health of individuals and the health of their communities; and

WHEREAS, studies link racism to adverse health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, areas falling under the public health category include healthy communities, violence prevention, rural health, technology, public health, climate change, and global health; and

WHEREAS, the promotion of healthy communities directly relates to the health of individuals, and encourages expanding public health support networks to decrease racial disparities in health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, communities of color are disproportionately impacted by social detriments of health, such as increased exposure to lead, poor air quality, lack of safe places to walk, bike, run, live, and inadequate health education; and

WHEREAS, the United States Office of Disease Prevention recognizes that discrimination negatively impacts health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the negative repercussions of historical racism, including but not limited to discriminatory lending practices of the 20th century known as "redlining," impact current outcomes regarding access to nutritious food, economic security, educational achievement, rates of lead poisoning, and infant mortality; and

WHEREAS, the continued and unnecessary loss of black lives, such as George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, Nina Pop, and so many others calls upon the County of Santa Cruz to be visible in our outrage, and, more importantly, in our resolve to work for change; and

WHEREAS, a disproportionate number of people of color are contracting COVID-19, with the County's COVID-19 Cases Dashboard posted publicly on our Public Health website displaying disproportionate rates of the corona virus in our Latinx communities in Santa Cruz County, countywide; and

WHEREAS, our public employees are comprised of a diverse, multicultural and multiethnic group of people and every person deserves to live with dignity, be valued for their inherent humanity, and be treated ethically; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to recognize the experiences, honor the history, and highlight the contributions of communities of color, while ensuring that every person has the social, economic, educational and political power to thrive; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Cruz recognizes that valuing the diversity that exists among our employees is integral to a more productive and capable workforce; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Cruz recognizes that racism is a public health crisis that affects all members of our society both locally and nationally and deserves action from all levels of government and civil society; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Cruz has made great efforts to address social inequities that exist, including through the adoption of an equity lens in our Health and Human Services departments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors will assert that racism is a public health crisis affecting our entire society, and assess internal policies and procedures to ensure racial equity is a core element of the County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, actions resulting from these declarations should include the County of Santa Cruz:

- (1) incorporating educational efforts to address and dismantle racism, and expand understanding of racism and how racism affects individual and population health;
- (2) promoting community engagement, actively engaging citizens on issues of racism, and providing tools to engage actively and authentically with communities of color and to dismantle systemic racism and protect the health and wellbeing of Black Indigenous people of color (BIPOC);
- (3) committing to review all portions of codified ordinances with a racial equity lens;

- (4) committing to conduct all human resources, vendor selection and grant management activities with a racial equity lens including reviewing all internal policies and practices such as hiring, promotions, leadership appointments and funding to ensure diversity of its workforce;
- (5) promoting racially equitable economic and workforce development practices to combat racial disparities;
- (6) promoting and encouraging all policies that prioritize the health of people of color and mitigating exposure to adverse childhood experience and trauma in childhood;
- (7) training of all elected officials and staff on workplace biases and how to mitigate
- (8) partnering and building alliances with local organizations that have a legacy and track record of confronting racism;
- (9) supporting Local, State, and Federal initiatives that advance social justice and combat and dismantle racism;
- (10) encouraging community partners and stakeholders in the education, employment, housing, criminal justice and safety arenas to recognize racism as a public health crisis and to activate the above items; and
- (11) securing adequate resources to successfully accomplish the above activities; and
- (12) identifying clear goals and objectives, including periodic reports to the public to assess progress and capitalize on opportunities to further advance racial equity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County of Santa Cruz will encourage other local, state, and national entities to recognize racism as a public health crisis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors does hereby support the efforts to address public health disparities due to racial inequities throughout Santa Cruz County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 18th day of August 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: Leopold, Friend, Coonerty, McPherson, Caput

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

DocuSigned by:

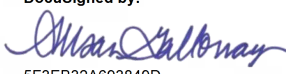
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GREG CAPUT

 Chair of the Board of Supervisors

DocuSigned by:

 Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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ATTEST: **SUSAN GALLOWAY**
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

 8/18/2020
Office of the County Counsel



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Scheduled Meetings

Unless otherwise specified below, regularly scheduled Women's Commission meetings are generally held as follows:

DAY: Third (3rd) Thursday*
MONTH: Every month except July and December
TIME: 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
LOCATION: **Santa Cruz County Government Building****
5th Floor Board Chambers or Redwood Conference Room (see below)
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

****Unless noted otherwise below**

Locations may vary for outreach, town hall meetings, special meetings, changes of location, or meeting cancellations. Changes to the schedule will be listed on the website at www.sccwc.org as soon as information becomes available.

2020 MEETING DATES		
DATE	TIME	LOCATION
January 16, 2020	6:00 – 7:00 PM	Board Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, 5 th Floor
February 20, 2020	6:00 – 7:00 PM	Board Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, 5 th Floor
March 19, 2020	6:00 – 7:00 PM	Canceled
April 16, 2020	6:00 – 7:00 PM	Canceled
May 21, 2020	6:00 – 7:00 PM	Canceled
June 18, 2020	6:00 – 7:00 PM	Remote
August 20, 2020	6:00 – 8:00 PM	Remote
September 17, 2020	6:00 – 8:00 PM	Remote
October 15, 2020	6:00 – 8:00 PM	To Be Determined
November 19, 2020	6:00 – 8:00 PM	To Be Determined