



AGENDA NO: I

MEETING DATE: June 23, 2020

**AGENDA CORRESPONDENCE
RECEIVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL
FOLLOWING POSTING OF THE AGENDA IS ATTACHED
FOR PUBLIC REVIEW PRIOR TO THE MEETING**

Heather Goodwin

From: Karen Kubarek
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:16 PM
To: Council
Subject: Racism as a public health crisis - today's meeting

We are proud to be residents of beautiful Morro Bay, the indigenous land of the northern Chumash. We want our voices heard about meeting R.A.C.E. Matter Slo's demands, including the recognition of racial discrimination as pervasive in our society and therefore racism should be declared a Public Health Emergency by Morro Bay, and every city at the SLO County Level.

On January 28th, 2020 the American Psychological Association published an article written by Zara Abrams titled, "Sounding the Alarm on Black Youth Suicide". This article states:

"Between 1991 and 2017, suicide attempts among black adolescents increased by 73%, while attempts among white youth decreased, according to an analysis of more than 198,000 high school students nationwide (Lindsey, M.A., et. al., Pediatrics, Vol. 144, No. 5, 2019). Other studies have shown an elevated risk of suicide among African American boys ages 5 to 11 (Bridge, J.A., et. al., JAMA Pediatrics, Vol. 172, No. 7, 2018)

... Across the board, mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder put youth at risk for suicidal thoughts and attempts. But many African American children and adolescents face additional challenges, including exposure to violent racial discrimination, that may further increase their risk, says Sherry Molock, PhD, associate professor of psychology at the George Washington University in the District of Columbia and a member of the working group.

Black youth are also less likely than their white peers to receive care for depression - and when they do enter treatment, it's often through the juvenile justice system..."

Another article, "Racism is a Public Health Crisis, Say Cities and Counties", posted on June 15th, 2020 on www.pewtrusts.org by Christine Vessel, says, "Black women are up to four times more likely to die of pregnancy related complications than white women. Black men are more than twice as likely to be killed by police as white men. And the average life expectancy of African Americans is four years lower than the rest of the U.S. population".

These racial disparities are heartbreaking and frightening. We need to do better to dismantle racism on a systemic level. Racism is a public health crisis and it is imperative for Morro Bay and San Luis Obispo County to step up and acknowledge black lives matter. And let's not forget the first peoples of the land we reside on, the Chumash.

Karen Kubarek and Nate Page

Heather Goodwin

From: Megan Moroney
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 6:51 PM
To: CityClerk
Subject: Special meeting 6/23

Hi,

I'm writing to urge the city council to declare racism a public health emergency. We need to be better as a community in words and in actions and support our Black community. Morro Bay should move money from the police budget towards more social services such as affordable housing and education. R.A.C.E. Matters SLO has additional demands for all SLO county officials and the city should work with the organization and aim to meet their demands. What we do now matters, and I urge you to take this seriously.

Thank for your time and work.

Best,
Megan Moroney
Morro Bay

Dana Swanson

From: Piper Fedrow
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 9:27 AM
To: CityClerk
Subject: Special Meeting Agenda | Racism is a public health crisis

Dear Mayor Headding and Councilmembers Addis, Davis, Heller and McPherson:

I've been a resident of Morro Bay for half of my life and now have the privilege of raising my young child here. From an early age, it was very clear to me that this beautiful city (and SLO County in general) was not known for its racial diversity, and that regardless of this fact (or perhaps directly related to it) I grew up alongside many local residents with deeply held prejudice against anyone they perceived as "other". As such, I am committed to doing all that I can to raise my child in an anti-racist and anti-discriminatory household. I am urging you to make the same commitment to the residents and visitors of Morro Bay.

I implore you to declare racism a public health emergency. It's imperative that a community that welcomes tourists from all over the world make this very important statement in support of its residents and visitors alike -- particularly members of the Black community and other historically marginalized communities. Additionally, I am asking you to join me in requesting SLO County reallocate funds from law enforcement and incarceration to fund community services, mental health and community nonprofits.

Finally, after reading the Police Reform responses provided by MBPD, I am requesting Morro Bay ban the use of the carotid hold altogether. According to a June 5, 2020 article in The LA Times, instances of injury related to the carotid hold disproportionately affected Black and Latinx communities and has since been banned by the City of San Diego Police Department and San Diego County Sheriff's Department, among others. There have been many publicized (and even more non-publicized) instances of serious injury, and even death, associated with this hold. As made clear in the 2019 death of Elijah McClain in Aurora, Colorado and subsequent release of the police officer's bodycam footage -- this hold is unnecessarily and improperly applied, it kills, and it should not be employed.

I appreciate your time and hope that Morro Bay can serve as an example to other communities that we all can make a difference to improve the lives and wellbeing of others, together.

Best,
Piper Fedrow

Heather Goodwin

From: Leila Daniel
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 1:09 PM
To: CityClerk
Subject: Racism as a public health crisis

Hi there,

My name is Leila Daniel and I live in SLO county. I am writing to make sure you are committed to fighting racism in our community. You need to reallocate funds from law enforcement and incarceration to fund community services, mental health and community non-profits. Support R.A.C.E. Matters demands in your jurisdiction and **adopt a resolution declaring racism a public health crisis**. Also, as a city council, connect and collaborate with organizations in Morro Bay who work on diversity, inclusion, equity and/or racial justice.

Thank you for your time,
Leila Daniel

Heather Goodwin

From: Raleigh Delk
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 12:14 PM
To: CityClerk
Subject: Special Meeting

I'm Raleigh from Los Osos and I'm asking the Morro Bay City Council to address and respond to the demands of R.A.C.E. Matters SLO. These potential improvements include the reallocating funds from the police department to local mental health services and nonprofits. Additionally, I agree wholeheartedly with the proposed resolution declaring racism a public health crisis as San Luis Obispo has done. For more information, refer to <https://www.racematterslo.org/> and connect and collaborate with other organizations in your city who work on diversity, inclusion, equity, and racial justice.

Regardless of the degree of racism in Morro Bay and SLO County as a whole, such changes could benefit everyone in the community and set an example for the rest of the state and the country. Learn more about the data-driven studies behind these demands at <https://www.joincampaignzero.org/>

Sincerely,
Raleigh Delk

Heather Goodwin

From: Lynda Merrill
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2020 6:23 PM
To: Jody Cox; Council
Subject: Fw: Racism as a public health crisis! City Council Special Meeting June 23, at 3

Thank you for your thoughtful ways. I believe you all are the best Council we have ever had.

Lynda Merrill

Council and Police Chief:

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA ITEM: I. RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS; RECEIVE AND DISCUSS REPORT FROM MBPD CHIEF COX ON POLICE REFORM; CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. 64-20 AFFIRMING THAT RACISM IS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS AND URGING PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS DECLARE RACISM A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY; CONSIDER PROVIDING FURTHER DIRECTION TO STAFF; (CITY MANAGER) RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the City Council receive this report and provide direction as appropriate, and consider adoption of a resolution declaring racism is a public health crisis and recommending public health officials declare racism a public health emergency.

Heather Goodwin

From: Sophie Stebbins
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 1:44 PM
To: CityClerk
Subject: Police Reform and Racism Board Meeting public comments

Hello,

I am writing to demand that Morro Bay city council hears the voices and demands of our Black community.

I am asking that the city council:

- Supports R.A.C.E Matters' (SLO) demands in their jurisdiction.
- Adopts a resolution declaring racism a public health crisis.
- Connects and collaborates with organizations who work on diversity, inclusion, equity, and/or racial justice.

The citizens of SLO county are asking for a response and swift action regarding racial justice.

Thank you,

Sophie Stebbins

Dana Swanson

From: betty winholtz
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 12:26 AM
To: John Headding; Robert Davis; Marlys McPherson; Jeffrey Heller; Dawn Addis
Cc: Dana Swanson; Jody Cox; Scott Collins
Subject: special city council meeting tuesday

Dear City Council:

Thank you for addressing this topic. I'm disappointed it is not addressed during the regularly scheduled city council meeting.

In the Staff Report, I note a discrepancy between the first paragraph of the **Discussion** and **Section 4.** in the Resolution. The **Discussion** states, "The resolution would also authorize the Mayor to send a letter to the SLO County Board of Supervisors and Public Health Officer requesting that they declare a public health crisis." (page 2) However, **Section 4.** (page 2 of the Resolution) omits "the SLO County Board of Supervisors." Perhaps this was an oversight. I hope this language will be added to the Resolution under Section 4.

A point of clarification regarding "CAROTID CONTROL HOLD": In the discussion on this topic (page 5 of the Staff Report), there is no mention of appropriate length of time when using this Hold. Is this covered in the training and/or should it be identified in the PD Policy Manual 300.3.4?

Sincerely,
Betty Winholtz