

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS II
Office of the City Clerk

City Council of the City of Napa
Regular Meeting

September 15, 2020

FOR THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NAPA:

EVENING SESSION:

16. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

16.A. Affirming Discrimination and Systemic Racism as a Public Health Crisis.

- 1) Email from Lynn Mirassou received on September 15, 2020.
- 2) Email from Julie Zeller received on September 15, 2020.
- 3) Email from Tracy Lamb, NEWS, received on September 15, 2020. *
- 4) Email from Rich Jacobson received on September 15, 2020.

****EMAIL OR HANDWRITTEN COMMENTS WILL BE READ INTO THE RECORD BY CITY STAFF
DURING THE MEETING.***

From: Mary Luros
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 7:00 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: Fwd: Item 16A

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lynn Mirassou [REDACTED]
Date: September 15, 2020 at 6:59:02 PM PDT
To: Mary Luros <MLuros@cityofnapa.org>
Subject: Item 16A

[EXTERNAL]

Dear Ms Luros,

I hope I am not too late to put my support behind item 16 A on your agenda this evening. I came to the city Council meeting not knowing that the public was not being allowed tonight.

Please support this resolution thank you.

Lynn Mirassou
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: Julie Zeller [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 7:01 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: 16 A. Is Racist to even be considered

Categories: Unverified Contact

[EXTERNAL]

Hello City council,

It has been made aware to me that there is a measure being considered to characterise NAPA of all places as having systemic racism, Agenda item 16A on September 15, 2020 council meeting.

This "systemic racism" measure is utterly and egregiously wrong to its foundation. I know of no one in the town that has been denied a job because of skin color or sexual orientation. I know of plenty that have been denied jobs and apartments because they were not equal to the task the job required or failed to have adequate credit because of their own failure to pay their bills on time. To say that there is systemic racism in the town of Napa is in truth racist. To continue to pursue this measure will ENSURE racism is here to stay in Napa, which will only increase the violence brought on by groups such as the poorly named "Stop Napa Hate" facebook group. That group alone can be credited with the closure of 4 businesses in Napa.

On a secondary note...your streaming service for your council meeting is that of the 1990s, short of a TV rolling in on a cart. Seriously get one that can handle chat and phone calls.

Cheers,
Julie Z.

From: [Tracy Lamb](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: RE: link
Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 7:48:34 PM

[EXTERNAL]

I don't know if I can edit down my statement...

My name is Tracy Lamb, and I am the Executive Director at NEWS, domestic violence and sexual assault services in Napa.

While domestic violence and sexual assault affects people of all races, and socioeconomic status, and the effects of trauma are long lasting for most victims; women, children and men of color face added disproportional challenges in their path to recovery from abuse. Black, Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) often struggle to survive with a lack of adequate affordable housing, access to health care services, mental health treatment, living wages, food security, and employment opportunities. Our fellow BIPOC neighbors may be headed down a path of life-long suffering when they become victims of domestic violence as a result becoming a single parent household, searching for housing with often minimal income and other challenges as they try to rebuild their lives. All of this as result of a system that has put them at a disadvantage because of their race.

At NEWS, we believe that every person should have the right to safety regardless of the color of their skin, for that reason I not only look forward to seeing this agenda item passed but more importantly to continue to see the policy change and actions needed to create change. It's time our BIPOC community felt the aid, support, and dismantling of racism needed to live comfortably in their home of Napa. Thank you for your time.

Thank you.

Tracy Lamb, Executive Director
1141 Pear Tree Lane, Ste. 220 Napa CA 94558 ½ 707.252.3687



From: Clerk [mailto:clerk@cityofnapa.org]

Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 6:30 PM
To: Tracy Lamb <tracyl@napanews.org>
Subject: RE: link

Here you go:

<https://napacity.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> then click on "In progress" for the 9/15/2020 City Council meeting.

From: Tracy Lamb <tracyl@napanews.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 6:25 PM
To: Clerk <clerk@cityofnapa.org>
Subject: link

[EXTERNAL]

Is there a link to view the meeting?

Thank you!

Tracy Lamb, Executive Director
1141 Pear Tree Lane, Ste. 220 Napa CA 94558 ½ 707.252.3687



From: [Rich Jacobson](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 16A
Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 7:51:44 PM

[EXTERNAL]

Dear City Council, I have been listening to the proceeding tonight with dismay and alarm. My concern is primarily with the attempt to paint Napa, a city I love and moved to some 20 years ago, as "systemically racist". Nothing could be further from the truth and none of the public comment tonight identified a single example of "systemic racism". The examples highlighted, such as being put in the wrong math class, being told to get off a street or even a apartment applicant being called names or being subjected to racist comments are certainly examples of isolated racism. However, the Director of Napa Fair Housing contradicted his position that systemic racism exists by noting that they, a government agency, are actively investigating the matter. It is proof that the system does work to counter overt racism!

Even Dr. Smith's example of systemic racism seems spurious. Requiring an educational degree is not racist. It is an accepted standard in all of the developed, civilized world. To state that educational achievement is an example of systemic racism is an example of looking for equality of outcomes instead of looking at the true concern, which should be ensuring there is equality of opportunity. To demand equality of outcomes is misguided and will lead to a tyrannical repression of some groups to benefit others simply because of their skin color. This is the very essence of racism.

As a Jewish male, I have lived with and overcome discrimination all my life. I have too many stories and examples of cruelty and anti-semitism to enumerate here. However, I am not blaming anyone nor asking that my city declare that it is "systemically anti-semitic". I was however dismayed that of all the discriminations enumerated by Steve Potter, religion was not mentioned.

If you pass the proclamation and declare that Napa is "systemically racist" you will be issuing an indictment of all of Napa and all its citizens. You will be branding us all with this false accusation and actively be undermining the pride and spirit that makes Napa a special place. I ask you to reject this wording and instead focus on condemning racism wherever it occurs. Until you have evidence that any of Napa's procedures and institutions are intrinsically racist, to attack our community in this fashion with such a broad accusation is irresponsible and destructive.

Yours truly, Rich Jacobson