

CONSENT CALENDAR

From: [Daniel Rogers](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Agenda Item CC-8
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 4:44:07 PM

Good Evening,

Mayor and City Council, I hope all is well.

Agenda item CC-8 includes the Housing Element, Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA), and the State's Density bonus.

What I'm interested in knowing is:

1) Since the Housing Element expires in 2021, When will the Housing Element meetings begin for the new 2021-2029 document?

2) In the current Housing Element the RHNA progress for 2006-2013 was for Income levels:

Very Low: 142 units, 0% progress.
Low: 88 units, 5% progress.
Moderate: 96 units, 33% progress.
Above Moderate: 241 units, 169% progress.

What does the most recent data reveal with the RHNA progress?

3) If the city establishes an Inclusionary Housing, I.H., policy one of the incentives for developers would be the city of Monrovia's usage of AB 1818 Density Bonus.

Other incentives would be, units could be built on or off site, pay an in-lieu fee for not building on site, parking reduction, to begin with.

What are the city's plans for creating an Inclusionary Housing policy?

I appreciate your time and responses.

Thank you,

Daniel Orellana-Rogers

Monrovia Housing & Tenants Advocates

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

From: [Kristen Norton-Zellem](#)
To: [Alice Atkins](#)
Subject: Public comment for 6/16 City Council Meeting: A call to action
Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 11:06:08 AM

Councilmembers,

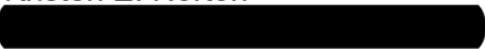
Communities all across the country are changing as a result of this powerful movement and national call to action. I am anxiously awaiting a statement and a plan of action from you, our elected officials and city leaders, as to how Monrovia will address this challenge and move forward. I heard portions of Mayor Adam's speech from Wednesday's community meeting at Library Park, and your individual messages during the City Council Meeting on June 2nd, but we need a detailed action plan illustrating how Monrovia will lift up and, most importantly, protect all members of our community.

I was impressed with the de-escalation training I learned about during my MAP classes, and the other measures the MPD has taken to engage and protect the Monrovia community but **we must do more**. As elected officials, you have a responsibility to represent and most importantly advocate for all members of our community.

What resources will be directed to ensuring all Monrovians are treated equally and fairly under the law, and what efforts are being made to address the biases that exist within our own community? Do you support creating an independent Human Relations Commission that will develop anti-racist programs/policies and address all forms of bias and prejudice that negatively affects our community?

Monrovia must address this challenge guided by you, our elected leaders. Let's be the community that leads the way in putting an end to systemic racism, and lifting up those members of our community who have been marginalized. **It is my most sincere hope that Monrovia will loudly and proudly announce that we are a community that will stand strongly against racism and resolutely for justice and equality for all, and put that message into action.**

Sincerely,
Kristen E. Norton



From: [Janet Wall](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Comment to be read during public comment at June 15 City Council Meeting
Date: Saturday, June 13, 2020 11:32:35 AM

Hi Alice & Ashton

Below is a comment that I would appreciate being read during public comment.

I hope the council will speak tonight about what the plans are to determine what the issues concerning race are in the City of Monrovia (from both the City's perspective and the citizens) and what the plans are to fix these issues. It seems to me that now is the time to not just listen, but to take action to fix these issues that are real whether or not we want to admit it.


Thanks,

Janet Wall

Janet Wall

From: [Jason Willoughby](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Public question
Date: Sunday, June 14, 2020 7:17:29 PM

In each of the city commissions, there is a council representative. How will each council member work with each assigned Commission to address the concerns of the Black Lives Matter movement that is different and innovative from what they are already doing currently. I would like to ask that each member and/or council member be held accountable to show how each Commission is being proactive and innovative to demonstrate justice for all 37k+ residents of our great city. Will the Mayor and Council be attending the Celebration at Station Square Park on Friday and will they be staying for the duration?

Jason Willoughby


From: [Nikki Montoya](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Re: 6/16 City Council Meeting Comments
Date: Monday, June 15, 2020 2:15:25 PM
Attachments: [Screenshot 2020-06-15 at 2.05.13 PM.png](#)

I have also attached a screenshot of the email response I was referring to in my previous email so that there is no confusion or doubt to it's validity.

On Mon, 15 Jun 2020 at 14:11, Nikki Montoya [REDACTED] wrote:

Good afternoon,

My name is Nikki Montoya and I am a resident of Monrovia. I am writing today to submit a comment/question to tomorrow night's city council meeting. I would also like to ensure that my comments are read aloud in full during the course of the meeting.

Over the last few weeks, I, like so many, have been reviewing Monrovia PD's policies regarding chokeholds, training, de-escalation, etc. I have read over the MPD's frequently asked questions page and would like some more information on the following. On the FAQ page, I saw that officers take part in de-escalation training, however it did not state the frequency of these trainings. Are they on-going? And if so, how frequently are officers required to participate? I also noticed that the FAQ page discussed and explained the policies that are currently in place but what it did not discuss is what consequences are in place for officers who break these policies? What kind of investigation or corrective procedures are in place to ensure the on-going safety of the community?

I also would like to take a moment to acknowledge the amazing protesters who have been out in library park tirelessly educating our community and making their voices heard to speak out against racism and demand change! With that said, I would also like to bring attention to some of the very dismissive and disappointing email responses that people in our community have received from Mayor Tom Adams. I, like many others, was disappointed by Mayor Adams remarks during the June 3rd rally, I found them to be seriously tone deaf and dismissive. This was an opportunity for the Mayor to stand on the side of justice and acknowledge the systemic racism that has plagued this country and based on several accounts I have heard in these past few weeks, the systemic racism that plagued the city of Monrovia. Instead, he engaged in a performative speech that highlighted the Monrovia PD instead of highlighting the voices and injustices that so desperately need to be acknowledged. To make matters worse, I have seen multiple posts online showing Mr. Adam's responses to others who spoke up and expressed their disappointment in his remarks on June 3rd. One in particular was shockingly dismissive and ignorant. In an email Mr. Adam's had the gall to state, "I am very well educated on racism and do all I can to eliminate it." Mr. Mayor, one thing that you can do and so clearly aren't doing is taking the time to listen and learn. As we all know, education never stops, so to claim that you are "very well educated on racism" dismisses the idea that you and all of us still have the opportunity to listen and educate ourselves more. Mr. Mayor you are a white man, so I think it is safe to say that while you may consider yourself educated on the topic, you very certainly have not experienced the explicit racism that so many BIPOC have so please acknowledge your privilege and do better with how you address others. Acknowledge that while you may think you know, you and all of us still have more to learn. I also saw that in one of your email responses you quoted a "prominent black leader" who supposedly reached out to you to thank you after the June 3rd protest. Do you understand how doing such a thing is incredibly

dismissive. You basically said, "I have a black friend" and with that, implied that this one person's statement discounts any complaints that you are receiving. Black people around the world are screaming to be heard, are DYING to be heard, and being MURDERED to be heard and instead of taking the time to acknowledge your mistakes you say, one black person told me I'm doing a good job so I must be. No sir, you need to look into yourself and see the fault in your actions and then look at that education you speak of and think about how you can educate yourself MORE, because you clearly have a lot to learn.

Thank you for your time,

Nikki Montoya
Monrovia Resident

2:07



< Inbox

2 Messages

BLACK LIVES MATTER



Tom Adams

2:02 PM

To: Melissa Palmares >

Melissa,

Thank you for your thoughts, I appreciate it. I am very well educated on racism and do all I can to eliminate it. I would like to share a text I received from a Prominent Black Leader after yesterday;

"Tom, please feel free to reach out to me as a Black Man who happens to serve in a leadership in Monrovia. Today was good until I heard self aggrandizing from some..You do more for the black folks than others would even know. Stay up!"

I would love to chat about some things we can do to lift up our Black Community, anytime you like.Thank you,

Tom

See More



From: [Katey Cabrera](#)
To: [Alice Atkins](#)
Subject: Please Read Outloud at City Council Meeting Tuesday June 16, 2020
Date: Monday, June 15, 2020 4:56:55 PM

Good evening Council,

In the Live With Ralph Walker meeting yesterday a question was brought up regarding affordable housing in Monrovia. Mayor Adams responded saying the State of California cut \$10 billion in funding that our community could have received a portion of. Monrovia is surrounded by other cities that are doing big things regarding affordable housing. Pasadena, for example, requires 15% of new units built to be set aside for very low to low income residents. I assume that Pasadena lost the same funding from the State that Monrovia did, yet they are still making affordable housing options available. How can Monrovia make affordable housing a priority in order to keep its long term residents that make this community so vibrant and special? What stipulations can we make in order to have affordable housing throughout our entire City, not just below the Huntington Drive or the 210 freeway?

--

Katey Cabrera

From: [Anna B](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Public Comment in advance of City Council Meeting 6/16
Date: Monday, June 15, 2020 5:28:39 PM

Hello,

I was discouraged by the response given by Mayor Adams today on KGEM TV related to affordable housing in Monrovia. I would like to see the council look into ways that the City can prioritize this as it is a critical issue for our entire state. Are there incentive programs or educational programs that the City could create to help property owners know what they can do to help? Can the minimum lot size be changed? Can rules be changed to incentivize more duplexes/triplexes? If there aren't programs to help the City build affordable housing for the general population, are there programs that can support the City in building housing specifically for homeless, veterans, disabled, or other groups highly impacted by high housing costs? Especially given the sales tax increase voted on in 2019 (measure K) to keep our dollars in Monrovia, we need to make this a priority to work on within our own city limits and we need to stop dismissing issues citing waiting for state or federal help to even just begin.

I would also like to see the City make a commitment to requiring city staff to attend anti-racism educational courses. They could even be programs put on by the Library or MAP that are open to the public! Wow, how powerful would that be to have our city officials working alongside the public to learn how to dismantle our own personal internalized superiority/oppression and discuss how to fix systemic oppression!

Thank you for taking my comment,
Anna Bischoff
Monrovia Resident

From: [Josh Salinas](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: 6/16 City Council Meeting Comments
Date: Monday, June 15, 2020 6:36:48 PM

Good afternoon,

My name is Josh Salinas and I am a resident of Monrovia. I am writing today to submit a comment/question to tomorrow night's city council meeting. I would also like to ensure that my comments are read aloud in full during the course of the meeting.

For the past few years I've lived in this city it has been hard to feel connected and welcome here. This city should be more than just for the people above Foothill. This is not a large city but It feels obvious that most perks, benefits, city council meetings and attention is for the "above foothill" community.

Mayor Tom Adams, you claim that people need to come to meetings. How about you and the city council make this and all city information easier to come by. Put posters up, make more announcements. Perhaps a public community board at the library park or every public park. If there are city events, let's have representation from the city giving as much information on benefits, meetings organizations. Make the community feel welcome that you actually have their back and want their input.

Also Mayor Tom, you mentioned that these "young" people don't know you and you don't talk about yourself, so that's why you're getting pushback. The city is getting to know you by your actions, lack of action and the words you speak. So telling some rambling story about some donation you made a few years ago isn't going to help. Based off what I've seen you do and say the past few months have given me a pretty good impression of who you are.

Do better and listen to **all of your community**,

Thank you for your time,

Joshua Salinas
Monrovia Resident

From: [Teresa Roldan](#)
To: [Steve Baker](#); [Dylan Feik](#); [Larry Spicer](#); [Gloria Crudgington](#); [Alex Blackburn](#); thomas.adams@century21.com; [Alice Atkins](#); [Alan Sanvictores](#); [Brad Dover](#); [Becky Shevlin](#)
Subject: Needed Changes to Policing/Leadership
Date: Monday, June 15, 2020 7:27:16 PM

To my Monrovia City Leaders,

I am a Monrovia resident and various portions of my multi-cultural family have lived in Monrovia for at least three generations. This city is my home and haven. I enjoy the quiet of sitting on my porch, seeing and chatting with neighbors and the numerous city sponsored family events available to my children, wife and I. So, my hopes for this city are high and so are my expectations.

I recently read the Carotid Hold has been banned. This is a wonderful and needed change, yet it makes me wonder what else is being done in our community to stop the potential for racist assumptions we, as humans, all make. Are there any other tactics under scrutiny that have been 'standard practice' or, at the very least, further training planned as to when to use/not use/release from the more forceful/painful holds? Are there plans for further training for any and all city employees in a variety of topics, such as cultural sensitivity, deescalation strategies, the effects of oppression over generations, how to deal with those with mental health issues, strategies to enhance communication and cooperation between city leadership and residents? The list goes on. I have even thought that best practice may be for all law enforcement to undergo mandatory talk therapy on a regular basis. Improving ourselves in general should be a goal for all, but especially for those of us whose job enables us to potentially have power over others. I am a preschool teacher and one strategy we, as teachers, use is to pass off the responsibility when we feel our emotions are getting involved in a negative way. Compassion and understanding should always be the main objectives.

This list of possibilities for forward motion do not and should not stop with the police. I believe these topics should be taken on by every segment of our city's leadership. Those of us in leadership have a responsibility to understand more, be able to teach others and be constantly looking toward a more cohesive community.

I do not want to only see changes made that seem to placate the public over the visual of one man's life being slowly taken. This is not *only* about George Floyd and things that *those* officers did or did not do to ensure equality and safety. This is about centuries worth of people of color being considered unworthy. This is about our mindset and how we react internally to those who do not look, act, or speak exactly like us, even before we ever react outwardly. Please stop and think about this for a moment. When have you had a negative thought about a stranger before they ever spoke or even noticed you? Note that the question is not 'if', but 'when'.

Even if we think that we have less of a problem with racism, more control over ourselves, or more compassion, this does not mean that we can sit back, saying, 'we don't have to worry, that's not us'. I would love to know that there is more being planned to make our city better and make *certain* that we will have less and less of a racial divide. We, as fallible humans, cannot leave this to fate or assume we are 'good enough'. This is a time to reevaluate *all* we do, think, and say in order to make this city, this state, this country live up to its promises of freedom and safety for each and every citizen.

Forgive me for any ignorance on my part, I am not one to follow city meetings or social media very often. I hope that conversation has already begun in this arena, but wanted to be sure to voice my opinion that all avenues of leadership should be open to thoughtful contemplation and meaningful self-improvement so that every grouping in our wonderful city feels safe, heard, and worthy.

Thank you for your time and attention.

In supplication,
Teresa Roldan



From: [Cheryl Baines](#)
To: [Alice Atkins](#)
Subject: Please read this out loud at city council meeting
Date: Monday, June 15, 2020 7:40:07 PM

This question is for the Mayor.

You have never addressed the racial injustice that is going on in this country. Unarmed Black men and women are getting shot in the back, knee on the neck until

They die in the street. One female “ they say she hung herself in her jail cell”. Another female, the police broke down her door without announcing and shot her 8 times. Come to find out they were in the wrong house. Shouldn't the dirty cops be held accountable? One white guy, killed what 4 or 5 people and the police sat him down and gave him water. The cops make a difference wether the person is Black or White!

What are your thoughts on that? I'd like to know!

Sent from my iPhone

Mayor Tom Adams
Mayor Pro Tem Alexander Blackburn
Councilmember Gloria Crudgington
Councilmember Becky Shevlin
Councilmember Larry Spicer

June 16, 2020

Email: cityclerk@ci.monrovia.ca.us

Re: Public Comment for June 16th City Council Meeting
Racism Task Force

Dear Council:

My name is John Shaw and I am a grateful resident of Monrovia.

Recent events have awakened the United States to our collective crisis of racial injustice. This crisis isn't new; we just haven't been paying attention.

The Monrovia City Council must lead the way by listening to our residents, by understanding their concerns, and by taking action that results in change. I can name a dozen ways to do that, but frankly, you should ignore all of them.

Instead, create a task force from a cross-section of the community and listen to their far better ideas. Make the group large enough to ensure a full range of views but small enough to stay nimble. Empower the task force, give it a short lifespan, and commit to listening and urgently acting on the solutions that they advocate.

This team will probably endorse new strategies and reforms. They may also call for better communication of what is already being done, like MAP (the Monrovia Area Partnership), Community Policing, the great "City Manager's Update" from Dylan Feik, complaint procedures, and so on. But ask yourselves this:

"Why is it that so many in our community are angry that they have not been listened to? Do they just not know what we do, but if we tell them, all will be well? Or is their righteous anger magnified because we need to pause our own voices long enough to listen better?"

I submit that our country and community is in crisis, in large part, because the cries for change have too often been met by TELLING, rather than LISTENING.

Some would say that our town doesn't have the same problems as other parts of the country. Please resist taking comfort in that notion. Instead, lead the way for our community and beyond. Empower a task force, listen to what they advocate, and act to make Monrovia an even better place to live.

One sign at last week's Library Park protests said this: "YOU SHOULD HAVE LISTENED". My hope is that this time, we will.

Sincerely,



John Shaw

[REDACTED]
Monrovia, CA 91016
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: vera@rightintimemusic.com
To: [City Clerk](#); [Alex Blackburn](#); [Becky Shevlin](#); [T Adams](#); [Larry Spicer](#); [Gloria Crudgington](#)
Cc: [Dylan Feik](#)
Subject: Tenants/Areum Building
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:37:33 PM

TO BE READ ALOUD AT TONIGHT'S MEETING:


My name is Vera Dragicevich and am writing to you as a resident and leaseholder at the Areum Building located at 1110 S 5th Avenue. The purpose of this communication is to describe to you and the residents of Monrovia what is a seriously flawed business model, now under its 3rd management company/ownership. As you are aware, Areum holds itself out as a luxury, high amenity, **secure** property. It operates without Full Disclosure and does not offer what it promises.

Did you know that our amenities (pool, jacuzzi, barbecue and outdoor seating area, fitness center, recreation room and business area) have been off limits to all tenants and their guests since March 16th? The only exception is the pool and jacuzzi which opened with severe restrictions on June 10th. Residents are told they must make an appointment and only be able to access during a narrow window of time. I was harassed and threatened with having the police come out because another resident allowed me to sit with them on a lounge chair briefly. The rest of the small group of tenants present were told to leave because I was not "following the rules." This being said, numerous requests by myself and others have asked our rent be reduced and are met with "We don't have to offer you these amenities. They are a perk." Again, this is not disclosed in full when leasing office representatives meet with prospective tenants or upon signature.

Are you aware that we have had numerous cars broken into (most recently on or about June 2nd) particularly on the 4th floor, and are reprimanded by management to "stop leaving belongings in our car?" When we had a number of bikes stolen last year, the current manager sent out email communication (4/26/19) stating "Please remember that your security is the responsibility of yourself and the local law enforcement agencies."

Also, under the guise of a "health emergency," Areum is directing tenants to DIY their own maintenance requests. This is illegal.

I, along with many tenants Demand our rent be forgiven and/or reduced for no less than 3 months. We further Demand all amenities be reopened and tenants as before have full access, responsibly and at our own risk. Additionally, we Demand Areum uphold its Contract to Maintain proper security for the sake of its residents (not to conduct what appears to be new surveillance on its tenants), cleanliness and treat ALL of us with dignity and respect.

Vera Dragicevich


From: [Genevieve Sheehan](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Public Comment for 16 June 2020 City Council Meeting
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:51:13 PM

Hello -

I am writing to urge the Monrovia City Council to take action in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. Systemic racism is a problem across America, and Monrovia is no exception. More than 1,000 people are killed by police every year in America, and Black people are three times more likely to be killed than White people. We can take steps and make reforms to combat police violence and systemic racism within law enforcement. Together, we can work to redefine public safety so that it recognizes the humanity and dignity of every person.

I would like to see the Mayor and City Council take these actions.

1. Complete review of the Monrovia Police Department use of force policies in line with Campaign Zero's 8 Can't Wait project. While the FAQ that was provided from MPD via the City Manager's 12 June update addressed some of these policies, it did highlight the shortcomings in Monrovia's policies as compared to these data driven and specific reduction in force policies.
2. Share that thorough review with the community and invite community feedback about the use of force policies.
3. Develop programs and practices that are designed to comprehensively improve community safety, such as improved access to affordable housing, emergency response professionals that are not police officers, removal of police officers from Monrovia schools, increased funding for Monrovia schools to focus on counseling and mental health services. A new community based commission should be established to focus on this kind of anti-racism work.
4. Require on-going anti-racism training for all city officials and staff, inclusive of the Mayor, City Council, Police and Fire Departments.

Please provide regular updates to the community on what actions you are taking to build an equitable and just Monrovia for the future.

Thank you.

Genevieve Sheehan

From: [Melissa Taylor](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [William Kelly](#); selahkelly@gmail.com; [Tamala Kelly](#); [Cat Plein](#); Ruhivvihuville@gmail.com; loos626@gmail.com
Subject: City Council Comment June 16
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 3:28:47 PM

To the Monrovia City Council Members:

Based on the increasing number of reports regarding systematic racism that has plagued this country, we, the undersigned, are deeply concerned that the current council is not doing enough to prevent and address these issues. Many communities have experienced and still experience real trauma related to racism. While you may think a person has nothing to fear, the Black community lives in fear of racial profiling and police brutality. This is well researched and Monrovia is not immune to these realities.

The current responses have yet to send a message other than deflection from the issues at hand. We want to see our city to move forward in the most collaborative way possible. Your engagement on these issues will help to create a more equitable community, promote Monrovia's rich diversity, and acknowledge, while this is a step in the right direction, there is still much work to be done.

We, the undersigned, ask that the council support the Black Lives Matter movement by immediately taking action on the following requests:

1. Use existing resources for programs that will benefit Black youth, and clearly and consistently communicate those programs to the community.
 - Use the Mary Wilcox Center to reinstate programming similar to the Summer Extravaganza program for our underserved youth in the community. Ensure these programs are designed and led by Black leaders in the community.
 - Ensure programs like YES target at-risk youth.
 - Use KGEM studio for a new Black-led, intergenerational media program that will offer Black youth technical and communication skills for career development.Considering 25% of the city's budget is allocated to the Monrovia Police, determine which of those funds can be reallocated to incorporate the above programs.
2. Adopt policies comparable to Campaign Zero's 8 Can't Wait. While we understand the MPD released an FAQ earlier this week, we would like to see it expanded to include:
 - While the current policy no longer uses chokeholds, ensure it won't happen in the future by incorporating language specific to banning chokeholds.
 - Please explain what constitutes "reasonable use of force," and incorporate a community review process to ensure an independent review of each incident. The current language is problematic and aimed in favor of officer judgement, which has repeatedly been biased against the Black community and communities of color. An independent community review can ensure that the sanctity of human life is spared in any instance.
 - Require professional anti-racist training and training for less-lethal options for police officers, which must be completed by pre-determined dates on a monthly basis.
 - Abolish the use of No Knock warrants.
3. Approve a working group to establish an independent Human Relations Commission, similar to Human Relations Commissions found in cities across Los Angeles County. Members should be appointed by the council and have some background in human relations.

4. Require anti-racist training for the city council and city staff. Training includes programs similar to those provided by Blue Level Training or World Trust.

5. Publicly acknowledge the racist history of Monrovia, especially as it relates to redlining and segregated schools, including a city proclamation acknowledging its history with the promise to do better, as well as the creation of an exhibit in the Monrovia Historical Museum.

We are welcome to meet as a group to help create the programs as they move forward.

Very sincerely yours,

Selah Kelly, William Kelly, Dr. Tamala Kelly, Chris Loos, Ruhiyyih Yuille, Cat Plein, and
Melissa Taylor

From: [Ali Lauder](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: City Council Meeting 6-16-2020
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 3:56:13 PM

Please be advised this entire email is directed at "Mayor" Tom Adams, and Tom Adams only! First and foremost, yesterday during your interview with Ralph Walker, you were asked a very SIMPLE yes or no question, "Can you say Black Lives Matter?" to which you replied with your life story, I could care less. Don't deflect and ignore the question! If you can't say it honestly and truthfully then you should not be shocked that the citizens of Monrovia believe you to be racist. Also, have you heard of a chair? Your lame excuse of not being able to walk is pathetic. Bring a CHAIR and chant with us. Why won't you just admit that you screwed up and sincerely apologize to those you hurt and embarrassed? Because that is what you are an EMBARRASSMENT. I don't want to hear your half-assed excuses and apologies. I want action. When will you step down and let someone actually qualified to do your job?? When will you recognize your privilege? When will you admit to yourself and those around you that you are racist? Because you are and your actions have yet to prove otherwise. Get a job out of politics if you don't support Black Lives!

Do better,

A very angry citizen of Monrovia.

Ruhiyyih N, Yuille

Monrovia, Ca 91016

To the City Council of the City of Monrovia,

My name is Ruhiyyih N. Yuille and along with my family, we have lived in Monrovia since the segregated 50s. My mother's family desegregated her neighborhood, elementary school, jr. high school and eventually Monrovia Highschool. We have dedicated our lives to finding ways not only to contribute to community life here in Monrovia, but also to push us to become a place of equity and understanding for all.

I know many of you may feel that we have reached a space of racial justice and equity here in Monrovia. That our city has solid plans to serve and support residents and our infrastructure exceeds standards set by the state and federal government. I would like to suggest we can do better and must do better, particularly for black lives. We can be a model for life in a city committed not to being NON racist BUT ANTI RACIST.

I have a few ideas about how we can achieve this goal.

First, I'd ask you, my elected officials, to audit and evaluate the programs we have in place to serve and inspire citizens. Who are they serving? Are they serving their original purpose? What does the community, the most marginalized of our community, really need.

Second, I'd like you, my elected officials, to dream big about the commitments you have made to this city. You have made public proclamations, attended functions sponsored by MDBAA, and even spoken at local rallies around the issue of racial justice and equity... yet you have fallen short in your obligation to translate thought into tangible action. Ideologies from our leadership, and NO push back from the council, suggests that many hold antiquated and unexamined white supremasit ideologies that have no place in the 21st century, a century when the people are unwilling to accept anything less than ANTIRACIST policy and actions.

Additionally, proclamations filled with sentiment yet lacking follow through have left Monrovia a place of talk and inaction. If we are committed, as you have proclaimed, to be against white supremacy and prejudice... how are you demonstrating that in the priorities you set, the people you hire, the events you sponsor, the business you attract, the mode of operation you adopt, the people you appoint, and the priorities you set? I would like to ask you, my elected officials, to have an outside expert in the area of antiracist action evaluate the work of our city council and all its entities to find ways we can be better!

Ruhiyyih N Yuille

Monrovia Resident 1976-present

From: [Tamala Kelly](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Question for City council meeting
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:40:25 PM

Please read out loud

Will you please make Juneteenth a national holiday in the City of Monrovia.

Dr. Tamala Kelly

From: [Jenny Hoang](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Public Comment for City Council Meeting 6/16
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:53:40 PM

Dear Mayor Tom Adams,

I am a resident of Monrovia. Like other Americans during these unprecedented times I am concerned about the future of our nation and our city. It has been horrifying to witness rampant police abuse and anti-black racism heralded by our nation's leaders and vigilante groups. I am heartbroken and outraged at the murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and countless other Black Americans. It is even more horrifying to see our elected officials do little to stem these violences. Now is the time that we come together and stand against anti-blackness and I'm calling for you as the Mayor and the City Council to work to defund the police and reinvest in our communities. To defund the police is to realize that the police department and its officers are asked to take on too many responsibilities of the community. It is to realize that policing is inherently about criminalization and punishment that is often directed at the most vulnerable in our society: unhoused people, disabled people, and people of color. The people who are best equipped to handle crisis situations in our community are not the people who are carrying tasers, guns, and handcuffs. We should have our calls directed to trained professionals. For instance, instead of the police we can call for mental health service providers, victims/survivor advocates, religious leaders, substance abuse experts—any number of people and organizations that are better able to de-escalate, provide support, and care to our neighbors and community members. The proposed operating budget for the police department for the fiscal year of 2019-2020 was a little over \$16 million dollars while the Library and Recreation Services was only slated to receive a little over \$5.5 million. For the fiscal year of 2020-2021 we are set to increase police funding by one million dollars. There is no parallel increase for the library and recreation services. We do not need more policing—increased spending and increased training has shown time and again to be ineffective and at worst DEADLY. We need the city to focus on promoting community services that can support our elderly residents, young families, working professionals, students, the unhoused—not to continue down this path of increased funding for the police dept.

Regards,
Jenny Hoang

jenny hoang
phd candidate
department of american studies & ethnicity
university of southern california

Good evening, Mayor and City Council,

If Monrovia is to become an anti-racist city, we must consider the changes we need to make. There are many, but these are the ones that are important to me.

First, with regard to policing: Our police department has been very supportive of the protests and we all appreciate their dedication and restraint, but one bad cop can create enormous problems for our communities. To ensure that we don't encounter such problems, we need to rigorously define what a problem officer is; and we must be able to remove officers who meet that definition. To that end, we must get rid of barriers to that process, including renegotiating union contracts if necessary to remove clauses that protect officers who have broken regulations or laws.

Second, with regard to education: Children who do not attend preschool begin their school years with a disadvantage, and very few of them catch up. For poor parents, private preschool is beyond their means, and a public three-hour preschool presents an obstacle to retaining a job. To improve educational outcomes and give children who are socio-economically disadvantaged a chance to succeed, we must invest in free, all-day preschool and its corollary, high-quality childcare.

Third, we must address our affordable housing crisis and take steps to increase home ownership. We have the opportunity to plan for housing changes in the upcoming rewrite of the Housing Element. Let's not waste it.

Thank you.

Cathy McCallum

From: [Julie Gamberg](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Letter to be read at 6/16/2020 City Council Meeting
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:54:32 PM

Dear clerk,

I am requesting that my comments, below, be read aloud at tonight's city council meeting. Thank you!

Good evening council members,

My name is Julie Gamberg, and I live in Monrovia. My daughter attended Monroe elementary's Spanish immersion program from TK through 5th grade, and began 6th grade this year in the same program at Clifton.

I spent four years as the chair of the School Site Council at Monroe, and I watched as dedicated parents and school staff dug into their own pocketbooks, and spent hours and hours on research, phone calls, emails, and in meetings, to figure out how to fund and support education in Monrovia. Some of the programs that we were never able to find funding for included innovative interventions for students who were struggling with reading; creative STEM programs to help kids over the hump from addition and subtraction to "hard math" and to foster a love of science and technology; P.E. to build strong bodies and to "get out the wiggles" so students could focus on learning and, as is proven, have fewer disciplinary issues; and, restorative justice programs to cultivate caring and respectful relationships between students from a wide variety of backgrounds. Again, in spite of years of work by many, none of these life-changing programs were ever funded.

Meanwhile, I saw the inequity as parents with more privilege and resources, most of whom were white, were able to hire tutors to supplement a lack of instruction from overcrowded classrooms; were able to hire art teachers, or pay for after school or summer enrichment to supplement the gutting of funding for the arts and humanities; and were even able to move to another MUSD school or switch to private school to meet other needs. This inequity meant that the experience of public education in Monrovia was itself inequitable.

At the same time, I have seen the police get new equipment and military-grade equipment, year after year, even though our crime statistics are low. I have seen police funding approved at council meetings without question. And I have seen police dispatched again and again to deal with homelessness and mental illness, issues which require a different type of training. Data indicates that law enforcement nationally spends 21% of its time responding to and transporting people with mental illnesses. Police are also frequently dispatched to deal with people experiencing homelessness, causing them to be incarcerated at a disproportionate rate.

There are many police who agree. "We're just asking us to do too much," said former Dallas police chief David Brown in a 2016 interview. "Every societal failure, we put it off for the cops to solve. That's too much to ask. Policing was never meant to solve all those problems."

A bigger policing budget means less investment in community-based drug and mental health treatment, education, and other social institutions that can make communities safer while improving life outcomes for all.

In 2019, New York made the conscious decision to reduce the number of police, and crime continued to go down.

We can invest in cultural competency and mental health training, de-escalation and conflict resolution.

In light of this, I call on one courageous, honest, thoughtful council member tonight to make a motion to reduce police funding by 30% this year, and to allocate those funds toward education; in-depth, sustained anti-racism and anti-bias training for all city employees; small business initiatives; traffic calming; paid internship programs for BIPOC youth; affordable local housing; high-quality mental health services; and resources for our most vulnerable populations, including the elderly, homeless populations, and veterans.

I am hopeful to hear your response tonight, and I await your response.

Sincerely,
Julie

From: [V Mac](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Recognize Juneteenth as a National Holiday
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6:01:47 PM

Hello,

As a resident of Monrovia, California, I urge you to recognize Juneteenth as a National Holiday. As an early educator, who has studied social-emotional development, I believe it is imperative to the African-American and/or Black American community, however each individual chooses to identify, that their history is recognized. All children and families in Monrovia, benefit from having a more full, realistic picture of what the United States of America is and where it came from and what it has overcome and has yet to overcome. If July 4th can be celebrated here, Juneteenth is more than deserving of a city-wide celebration. It behoove you to be inclusive of all of your constituents.

Thank you,

Veronica Macias

From: [Donna and David Baker](#)
To: [Alice Atkins](#)
Subject: Public comment for tonight
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 4:27:50 PM

Good evening Council. Considering the recent events regarding the murder of George Floyd and the call for better policing, I strongly suggest the City appoint a permanent Human Rights Commission to oversee the City's obligations to fair and equal representation for ALL residents of Monrovia. In addition, while I respect the recent posting by the Monrovia Police Department "suspending" the use of choke holds, I feel the City needs to go further and completely BAN the use of the choke hold in any situation ever.

Thank you

From: [Nancy Matthews](#)
To: [Alice Atkins](#)
Subject: Council meeting public comment
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:36:15 PM

I would like to ask the Monrovia City Council to consider recognizing two important events:

- Juneteenth as a holiday.
- Declare the month of June as, 'Pride in the City' month and encourage all individuals to partake in events celebrating the progress of the LGBTQ+ community.

I would be happy to provide additional background information if needed.

Nancy Matthews
