

March 24, 2021

City of Monrovia
Ad Hoc Committee on Equity and Inclusion
Chair Ruhyyih Yuille
Vice Chair Edward Elizalde
Committee Members:
Susie Ling
Henry Olivas
Rev. Neil Tadken

By Email: cityclerk@ci.monrovia.ca.us

Re: Public Comment for March 25th, 2021 Committee Meeting

Dear Chair Yuille, Vice Chair Elizalde, and Committee Members Ling, Olivas, and Tadken:

My name is John Shaw and I am a grateful resident of Monrovia. Thank you for your time and efforts to make our town a better place to live for all citizens.

Throughout 2020, many repulsive incidents awakened the United States to our crisis of racial injustice. It wasn't anything new; we just didn't pay much attention throughout the history of our country. Now, despite our collective wishes to put 2020 behind us, even more despicable acts have proven that this crisis isn't going away.

With the creation of the Ad Hoc Committee on Equity and Inclusion, City Council took an important step to listen to the concerns of Monrovia's citizens and lead the way with needed recommendations and actions.

One vital recommendation of the Committee should be to create a permanent Human Relations Commission charged with continuing your efforts.

Monrovia has several boards and commissions. Groups like the Planning Commission, the Community Services Commission, the Development Review Committee, and others take on the important work of making our town a better place to live. I submit that a permanent commission, charged with continually assessing needs and acting to improve equity and inclusion across Monrovia, is just as important as any other commission or board.

Some would argue that a permanent commission isn't needed because Monrovia doesn't have a "problem". We must resist finding comfort in these claims. Instead, we must amplify the voices of our whole community and take the lead across a country in crisis – in crisis in large part because cries for change have too often been silenced or ignored.

One sign at last June's Library Park protests said this: "YOU SHOULD HAVE LISTENED". My hope is that we will listen – continually - and take action. Creating a permanent commission to continue the work of the Ad Hoc Committee will be vital for all citizens of Monrovia.

Sincerely,



John Shaw





From: [Melissa Taylor](#)
To: [Office of Public Information](#)
Subject: Ad Hoc Committee Public Comment
Date: Thursday, March 25, 2021 9:05:43 AM

Good Evening Members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Equity and Inclusion,

Thank you for the hard work over this past year to better understand Monrovia's diversity, equity, and inclusion issues. It is my hope that part of your recommendation will be to create a permanent DEI commission similar to other California cities coming to terms with their past . This started as a result of the Black Lives Matter movement, and now we are becoming aware of the Anti-Asian culture that is taking place, I believe it is important to have this oversight to hold departments and people accountable. We will need you (or your successors) to be the watchdog to ensure all of these suggestions are implemented and maintained. As more people find their voice, I believe we will hear from other previously oppressed communities.

Additionally, I do think that part of the commission's goal will be bringing awareness to the community (I am thinking of the Easter bunnies I see throughout Old Town, but nothing for Passover, or nothing for Women's History Month, or Black History Month, or the Lunar New Year). There are so many ways we can celebrate our diversity here in Monrovia, and I would hate to see them ignored because the committee has been dissolved. This would be a great opportunity to bring the community together and restructure MAP to encourage discussions about the historical context of our town. Redlining is one thing, but also our housing prices have ballooned causing further diversion between those who can afford to live here vs. those who grew up here.

Again, thank you for doing the hard work, asking the tough questions, and helping move our city forward.

Melissa Taylor