



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: June 9, 2020

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: City Administrator's Office

SUBJECT: Discussion And Direction Regarding Resolution Condemning National Police Brutality And Declaring Racism A Public Health Crisis, The Establishment Of Independent Review Of The Disposition Of Misconduct Complaints By The Police Department

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council discuss and direct staff to accomplish the tasks outlined in the body of this Council Agenda Report.

DISCUSSION:

The country has been haunted by the vision of a Minneapolis police officer kneeling on a subdued man's neck, as other officers witnessed Mr. George Floyd's pleas for help be ignored. The country has been haunted, too, by the knowledge that this was not an isolated incident in the nation.

As public officials, this tragedy makes us reflect on our own policies, practices, behaviors, and attitudes. The questions of whether we are doing enough, are we vigilant enough, have we fostered a true culture of respect and honesty are questions that need to be asked and answered.

At the June 2, 2020 City Council meeting, many members of the public commented on the need to ensure that all members of our community feel a part of Santa Barbara, as well as feel protected, listened to, and served by their public servants. In response to the public comments, the City Administrator's Office is recommending these first steps as part of a continued effort to address the comments and concerns of the public.

Resolution Condemning National Police Brutality and Declaring Racism A Public Health Crisis

- Direct staff to return to Council after input from members of Black Lives Matter Santa Barbara with a resolution that condemns national police brutality and declares racism as a public health crisis.

Transparency and Accountability from the Santa Barbara Police Department

- Direct the City Attorney's Office to return on July 14, 2020 with a City Council presentation on options for establishing an independent police oversight system. The oversight system should include recommendations on methods to conduct regular independent police reviews. These independent reviews would include, at a minimum, an assessment of the objectivity, thoroughness, and appropriateness of police department responses to complaints against police misconduct. Consider direction to staff on the addition of a socioeconomic section to Council Agenda Reports (CARs) in the future.

Protection and Preservation of Black Landmarks

- Direct staff to work with the Historic Landmark Commission (HLC) to identify, protect, and preserve spaces and landmarks of historical importance to members of the African American community.

Funding Support for Library Annual Programming Related to Juneteenth, Black History Month and Other Cultural History Educational/Celebration Events

- Appropriate \$35,000 to the Library to financially support annual events that celebrate the City's cultural and racial diversity including the Juneteenth Celebration, Black History Month, and others in the FY 2020/21 budget.

CONCLUSION:

In the aftermath of this tragedy, the City reaffirms its commitment to the larger goals of social justice. We will work with community leaders to determine the best ways for us to engage on this important mission as we continue to move forward.

PREPARED BY: Sam Ramirez, Administrative Analyst III

SUBMITTED BY: Paul Casey, City Administrator

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office