


Date: December 21, 2015

To: Supervisor John Gioia  
Supervisor Federal Glover

From: Robin Lipetzky, Public Defender   
Phil Kader, Chief Probation Officer  
Tom Kensok, Assistant District Attorney

Subject: Recommendation for Racial Justice Taskforce

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As requested by the Public Protection Committee of the Board of Supervisors, the above named individuals have met to discuss how the County can best move forward to address the disproportionate representation of racial minorities in the criminal justice system in Contra Costa County.

We recommend that the County appoint a Racial Justice Taskforce (RJT) to be comprised of no more than 15 members representing governmental agencies and community organizations whose work concerns racial equality within the criminal justice system. We propose the following persons and/or entities for membership on the RJT:

Chief Probation Officer  
Public Defender  
District Attorney  
Sheriff  
Superior Court of Contra Costa County  
Local Law Enforcement (member to be name by the CCC Police Chiefs Association)  
Local School Districts (up to 3 representatives)  
Department of Health  
Community-based Organizations (up to 5 members)

We recommend that the mission of the RJT be to:

1. Identify some consensus measures within the County to reduce racial disparities in the criminal justice system;
2. Make recommendations for implementation of the measures once identified;  
and
3. Report back to the Board of Supervisors on progress made toward reducing racial disparities within the criminal justice system.

In recognition that this is a challenging undertaking, we further recommend that the County provide funding for two necessary components to the success of the RJT. First, we ask that the County contract with an impartial trained facilitator to guide the RJT through this process. Second, we suggest that the County contract with a public interest research entity or an academic institution to assist in data collection and outcome analysis.