



Contra Costa County Racial Justice Coalition
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Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

Dear Chair Mitchoff, Vice-Chair Gioia, and Supervisors Anderson, Burgis, and Glover,

The Contra Costa County Racial Justice Coalition has been deeply involved with the work of the County's Racial Justice Task Force. We are glad that the Task Force is now ready to report its recommendations for reducing racial disparities in our criminal and juvenile justice systems. We ask you to accept them in full although we know that, even when you do, there will still be a great deal of work to be done.

Our primary concern is that, although the first mandate you gave the Task Force in April, 2016 ("Research and identify consensus measures within the County to reduce racial disparities in the criminal justice system") has now – to some extent – been completed, two crucial mandates remain in order to achieve any substantive change. These are:

- to plan and oversee implementation of the measures once identified; and
- to report back to the Board of Supervisors on progress made toward reducing racial disparities within the criminal justice system.

Therefore, we ask you to create without delay all that's needed to implement, oversee, and report back on these recommendations.

One of the most important recommendations put forth by the Task Force includes the creation of a Racial Justice Oversight Body with strong community representation. The Racial Justice Coalition strongly supports this recommendation and stands ready to nominate representatives to serve on this body to provide oversight and reporting.

Overall, the Coalition believes the Task Force's recommendations are good, though extremely broad in their current form. The recommendations will mean little without the necessary allocation of personnel responsible for turning them into specific policies and practices, along with the skilled facilitation and dedicated funding to make that happen.

The data on racial disparities in our criminal and juvenile justice systems included in the Task Force's report remains as disturbing as the data that led you to create the Task Force two years ago. We expect you to take decisive action to create and fund the next steps needed to help reduce these disparities and achieve a higher level of justice for all County residents.

Respectfully,

The Contra Costa County Racial Justice Coalition