
From: Jan Warren <j...>
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2022 10:43 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Item D1 on October 25, 2022 Agenda for Board of Supervisors

Dear Clerk of the Board and Board of Supervisors,

My name is Jan Warren and I live in Walnut Creek.

Thank you for establishing the ORESJ in November 2020. For almost two years the ORESJ has engaged the community in listening sessions and surveys to be able to discern what the next steps should be.

The Office was birthed out of a violent period of time when lives were lost and people in the streets were demanding change.

Through surveys and community cafes the 3 most common forms of harms were expressed.

- Racial Violence
- Police Violence
- Anti-immigrant violence

I support the Principles that were established. I attended some of the meetings and specifically remember the first one where whites were asked to let BIPOC speak while we listened. We worked to build trust.

This is a beginning. Without sufficient funding to build on what was learned the community will feel betrayed again.

I urge the Board of Supervisors to adopt all recommendations supporting the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice launch in Contra Costa County.

Jan Warren

Walnut Creek, CA

ATTN: Clerk of the Board
Supervisor John Gioia
Supervisor Candace Andersen
Supervisor Diane Burgis
Supervisor Karen Mitchoff
Supervisor Federal Glover

25 October 2022

Re Agenda Item D1: Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice

The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice is an act of love. It is also an acknowledgement of harm, violence, and intent toward redress.

Contra Costa County is unique but not exceptional. The problems it faces are common across numerous metropolitan regions. Confronting histories, institutions, policies, and practices that reflect and perpetuate an ideology of white supremacy, municipalities are striving to build a more inclusive and equitable future by resituating decision-making power into the hands of historically and purposefully under-resourced community members and **enacting systems change to address systems harms**. Our county must invest in community to create a culture of belonging, reciprocal humanity, and solidarity in Contra Costa.

Community is as much about struggle as it is about consensus. In fact, righteous struggle is what yields consensus that feels mutually achieved and not unilaterally imposed. Therefore, I applaud the intentional process of centering community engagement and input ahead of the Office's installation.

I especially want to uplift the recommendation to create a Lived Experience Community Advisory Board to serve as a key pivot in centering community direction and oversight. It is vital that community members—particularly those impacted by system harms and varied forms of marginalization—anchor, author, and authorize the work of this Office.

Building and sustaining blessed community is sacred and soulful work. The core committee has diligently shepherded this process alongside community, working at the pace of trust. Do not let that trust be jeopardized; do not let all the work put in on the front end be for naught.

It is time for more hands and hearts to carry this work forward. Together. ***Because this movement is moving.***

I urge the Supervisors to heed the report's recommendations and to enact them with conviction, accountability, and love for your community. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rachel Rosekind

From: Mahvash Hassan <[redacted]@[redacted].com>
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2022 7:11 PM
To: Clerk of the Board; John Gioia; Federal Glover; Karen Mitchoff; candance.anderson@bos.ccc; Diane Burgis; Kanwarpal Dhaliwal
Cc: Sonia Bustamante; Teresa Gerringer; Gayle Israel; Lia Bristol; David Fraser; Hannah Garcia; Luis Arteaga; Diane Aranda; dlevine; Yolanda Alindor; Allison Magee; Brandon Johns
Subject: STRONG Funder Collaborative
Attachments: East Contra Costa STRONG Collaborative Fund Letter ORESJ Recommendations.pdf

To the Core Committee for the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice and the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors,

We, the members of the **East Contra Costa STRONG Collaborative Fund**, commend the Planning Core Committee of the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice for the community engagement process to develop the recommendations made to the Board of Supervisors.

The [East Contra Costa STRONG Collaborative Fund](#) (STRONG: Strengthening Tenacious Resilient Organizations and Nurturing their Growth) is a pooled fund of private and community foundations dedicated to increasing racial equity and economic justice in East Contra Costa County by strengthening the capacity of nonprofits, supporting leadership development, and building community voice and power.

All the members of the STRONG Collaborative joined other regional funders in supporting the community engagement process due to our commitment to a community-centered approach to addressing the systemic impact on communities of color and the process’ alignment with STRONG’s values of community, dignity, and equity.

As funders invested in Contra Costa County for the long term, we appreciate and applaud the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors for its leadership and commitment to develop an Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ) that would be informed by and launched after a community engagement process. We are impressed with the intentional work of the Core Committee to live up to its promise of deep and broad community engagement and grateful to County residents who informed the recommendations presented to the Board.

- Hannah Garcia, East Bay Community Foundation*
- Devorah Levine, Dean and Margaret Leshner Foundation*
- Yolanda Alindor and Rodney Nickens, Jr. San Francisco Foundation*
- Diane Aranda, The California Endowment*
- Luis Arteaga, Y&H Soda Foundation*
- Allison Magee, Zellerbach Family Foundation*

On Behalf of the [STRONG Funder Collaborative](#)

October 24, 2022

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Luis Arteaga, Y&H Soda Foundation
Allison Magee, Zellerbach Family Foundation



From: DeafHope <deafhope@deaf-hope.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 10:26 AM
To: Clerk of the Board <ClerkOfTheBoard@cob.cccounty.us>
Subject: today - public comment for board of supervisors meeting

Dear Contra Costa County Board of the Supervisors Clerk,

I would like to make public comment on the hearing today, specifically on the ORESJ recommendations. I am a Deaf person who uses American Sign Language (ASL). Due to the Zoom room settings for participants, as a participant I am not able to turn on my video to make full use of the American Sign Language interpretation that is arranged for the meeting. I need to have my video turned on in order for me to convey my public comment in ASL, my natural language.

Below is the public comment that I prepared to deliver in ASL:

My name is Brian Berlinski, I am an Empowerment Director with DeafHope. In support of the Deaf community, which includes American Sign Language users, as well as DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, late deafened and hard of hearing people in Contra Costa County, I am calling with my endorsement of the ORESJ Staffing and Structure Recommendations. Thank you.

Thank you kindly,

Brian Berlinski
Empowerment Director

DeafHope
deafhope@deaf-hope.org
www.deaf-hope.org
Phone or VP: 510-735-8553

[facebook.com/DeafHope](https://www.facebook.com/DeafHope)
Instagram: @deaf_hope
<https://www.youtube.com/c/DeafHope2>



Good afternoon Chair Mitchoff and Supervisors,

My name is Debbie Toth and I am speaking as the CEO of Choice in Aging. I am sorry I missed so much of this conversation due to wifi challenges, but will do my best. I am heartened this hard conversation is happening and sorry it is hurtful for all. It's not easy to grapple with systems that are counter to who we are as humans. I have seen each of you do work to create more equity in our county. I watched as our community saw the devastating impacts of COVID on our elders; particularly those who are African American, Black, Indigenous and people of color, and watched you stand up efforts to shore up support in education, food, vaccines and more; targeting our African American and Latino/X communities – including creating committees to focus on historically marginalized and underserved populations. Let us continue to lift those most harmed – which is our African American and Black community – but let's not forget the elders, disabled, refugees, LGBTQI, women and so on. The intersectional nature of oppression makes it imperative that this body is inclusive of those most harmed in our community.

I am sorry I did not have the bandwidth to engage more in this process and hope to moving forward to ensure racial equity and social justice are achieved through this effort. You have lifted and supported this work and I look forward to that continued commitment.

--

DEBBIE TOTH | President & CEO

she/her/hers (**why pronouns matter**)

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October 20, 2022

Supervisor Karen Mitchoff, Chair
Supervisor Diane Burgis
Supervisor Candace Andersen
Supervisor John Gioia
Supervisor Federal Glover

CC: Monica Nino, Chief Administrative Officer

Dear Supervisors and County Administrator:

The Contra Costa Budget Justice Coalition (BJC) is pleased to support the proposal for a new Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ). We want to thank the Board of Supervisors for your leadership in embracing this effort. As you know, the Budget Justice Coalition has been supportive of this concept since its inception. We are impressed by the robust community engagement process that produced this implementation proposal. We strongly believe it reflects our county's shared commitment to equity and social justice and provides a great platform to enable further county and community engagement to address residents' priorities.

As stated in the ORESJ proposal, the Budget Justice Coalition stands ready to provide support and assistance to the new Office in developing and launching a Participatory Budget pilot project. If the Board of Supervisors and Chief Administrator's Office wish to learn more about the Participatory Budgeting process, this [website](#) is a great source of information, as it is a national point of reference for cities and counties across the country that are exploring Participatory Budgeting as a way to support racial equity and inclusion.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this letter.

On behalf of the Budget Justice Coalition,

Sara Gurdian
Program Manager

Contra Costa Budget Justice Coalition
3260 Blume Drive, Suite 110, Richmond CA 94806
www.budgetjusticecc.org
510-672-4799



Members

350 Contra Costa
AFSCME Local 2700
Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE) Contra Costa
Asian Pacific Environmental Network
Bay Area Community Resources
Choice in Aging
Contra Costa Immigrant Rights Alliance
Contra Costa Central Labor Council
Contra Costa Racial Justice Coalition
Contra Costa Office of Education
East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy
East Contra Costa Community Alliance
Ensuring Opportunity
First 5 Contra Costa/Family Economic Security Partnership
Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano
Great Richmond Interfaith Program
Healthy Contra Costa
Human Services Alliance of Contra Costa
IFPTE Local 21
League of Women Voters Diablo Valley
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Meals on Wheels Senior Outreach
Monument Impact
Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition
Planned Parenthood of Northern California
RCF Connects
Redwood Community Health Clinics (formerly Community Clinic Consortium of Contra Costa)
Richmond LAND
Rubicon Programs
Safe Return Project
SEIU Local 1021
SURJ (Standing Up for Racial Justice)
United Latino Voices
And many residents of Contra Costa

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