



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA**  
**SANTA BARBARA YOUTH COUNCIL**

**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**Thursday, June 25, 2020**  
**VIA TELECONFERENCE**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to Order at 4:03 pm by Chair Quinn Stefan.

**Youth Council Members Present**

Chau, Tim  
Flanagin, Davis  
Dunn, Kent  
Minor, Julia  
Palmerin Piña, Marco  
Proulx-Kelly, River  
Stefan, Quinn  
Zarate, Genesis

**Junior High Representatives**

Calzadilla, Dhaira  
Chow, Victoria  
Weber, Maddie

**Staff Present**

Isis Castañeda, Youth Council Advisor

**Liaisons Present**

Oscar Gutierrez, City Councilmember  
Jacob Lesner-Buxton, Parks and Recreation Commissioner

**Youth Council Members Absent**

Chow, Alex  
Goodman, Laila

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**COUNCIL AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

**Isis Castañeda, Youth Council Advisor**

- Isis will be leaving the position as staff advisor as of June 26th.

- Virtual Teen Connect series has been amazing with many youth participating, organized by Youth Council executive subcommittee with the Isla Vista Teen Leadership Team from the St George Youth Center. There have been two and the third will be held on July 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Marco Palmerin Piña term is officially done on June 30<sup>th</sup>. We thank him for the several years of being on the Youth Council and wish him the best.
- The month of July the Youth Council takes a break.
- Michelle McDonnell will be supporting the Youth Council after my departure.

### **Oscar Gutierrez, City Councilmember**

- Please stay safe.
- Black Lives Matter would now like to be referred as Healing Justice.
- The City Council has adopted all of the demands put forth by Healing Justice.
- Two million dollars have taken from the police department and transferred to public works department in the city.
- San Andres on Saturday & Sunday will have close the streets so that businesses can branch out and get foot traffic.
- Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> a Youth Bike Ride at 6pm starting at De La Guerra Plaza.

### **Jacob Lesner-Buxton, Parks and Recreation Commissioner**

- Volunteer Virtually at the Independent Living Resource Center this Summer.
- If you're interested in learning more and setting up an interview, please contact Jacob Lesner-Buxton at [Jlesner@ilrc-trico.org](mailto:Jlesner@ilrc-trico.org) or 805-963-0595 Ext 105.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **1. Subject: Approval for Minutes – For Action (Attachment)**

Recommendation: That the Youth Council waive the reading and approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 3, 2020.

It was moved and seconded by Youth Council members Palmerin Piña and Minor respectively, to approve the minutes for the meeting on February 3, 2020. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2. Subject: Statement of Support for Student Led - Discussion and Action (Attachment)**

Recommendation: That the Youth Council issue a statement in support of the following items

- Student-led list of demands to the Santa Barbara Unified School District
- Resolution Condemning National Police Brutality And Declaring Racism A Public Health Crisis **(520.04)**
- Submitting the Santa Barbara Youth Council statement on racial injustice to the Santa Barbara City Council

It was moved and seconded by Youth Council members Chau and Palmerin Piña respectively, to approve that the Youth Council issue a statement in support of the Student-led list of demands to the Santa Barbara Unified School District, the Resolution Condemning National Police Brutality And Declaring Racism A Public Health Crisis (520.04), and submitting the Santa Barbara Youth Council statement on racial injustice as is and immediately. All in favor. Motion carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **3. Subject: Youth Council Updates – For Information Only**

Recommendation: That the Youth Council members take up to two minutes for updating the public on specific school related issues or events impacting their school or youth in general.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 pm.

**REPORTS:** Copies of reports relating to agenda items are available for review in the office of Neighborhood and Outreach Services, 423 West Victoria or online at the City's website (<http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov>). Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Neighborhood and Outreach Services Section after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Neighborhood and Outreach Services' offices, during normal business hours.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to gain access to, comment at, or participate in this meeting, please contact Isis Castañeda at 897-2562 or inquire at the City Clerk's Office on the day of the meeting. If possible, notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements in most cases.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

Next regular meeting: **August TBD**

Memorandum

From: Santa Barbara Youth Council

To: Mayor Murillo and the Santa Barbara City Council

Re: Letter of support for the Resolution Condemning National Police Brutality And Declaring Racism A Public Health Crisis (520.04)

Date: June 25, 2020

As members of the Santa Barbara Youth Council, we were appointed to represent the youth of Santa Barbara, and with this comes an important responsibility. We hear the voices of the youth, and support the youth led protests and movements for racial justice. We understand that this systemic racism has long been a part of our past and present. We are here to listen, to learn, to support, and to help create real change.

We, the Santa Barbara Youth Council, support the student-led list of demands to the Santa Barbara Unified School District and the Resolution Condemning National Police Brutality And Declaring Racism A Public Health Crisis (520.04).

Sincerely,

Santa Barbara Youth Council, 2019-2020 Term

Quinn Stefan

Julia Minor

Davis Flanagan

Alex Chow

Kent Dunn

Genesis Zarate

Laila Blaise

Marco Palmerin Pina

River Proulx-Kelly

Tim Chau

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA DECLARING RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS AND CONDEMNING POLICE BRUTALITY

WHEREAS, we are haunted by the searing 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 by the very people who are trained to help and assist; and

WHEREAS, from slavery to Jim Crow laws to the modern criminal justice system, black people in this country have been brutalized and dehumanized for centuries, including Santa Barbara County's first black enslaved resident, Jerry Forney; and

WHEREAS, on March 28, 2015, 26-year-old and Oxnard, California resident Meagan Hockaday was fatally shot in her own home by Oxnard Police; and

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2020, America witnessed the shooting and killing of 25-year-old Ahmaud Arbery, an unarmed black man going for a jog, by two white men in Glynn County, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, 26-year-old emergency medical worker Breonna Taylor was shot and killed by police inside her home after a "no-knock" raid; and

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2020, 21-year-old Sean Reed was fatally shot by Indianapolis Police; and

WHEREAS, on May 24, 2020, 38-year-old Tony McDade was fatally shot by Tallahassee Police, and

WHEREAS, we are haunted, too, by the knowledge that these are not isolated events in our country. The number of names and similar experiences is unconscionably long, and an undeniable part of the history of this nation; and

WHEREAS, we extend our condolences to Mr. Floyd's family and friends and to all who grieve his death. We offer our thoughts to the countless members of our community who have been personally impacted as well; and

WHEREAS, we condemn the actions of the police officers involved; and

WHEREAS, we strive to remain ever thoughtful in our work — as public officials — to ensure that all members of our community feel part of Santa Barbara and feel protected, listened to, and served by their public servants; and

WHEREAS, as public officials, it is our duty to use our legal and moral authority to protect all members of our community no matter their race or color or where they fall on the power spectrum. It is our duty to foster a community free of fear, intimidation and violence — a community in which people are not targeted or hurt unnecessarily by law enforcement — and to provide equal protection under the law; and

WHEREAS, we know many of the young people in our community have seen this video and other similar news, and are trying to process these traumatizing events with their families. However, the current public health situation makes it that much more difficult as they are unable to connect with friends, extended family, or school staff; and

WHEREAS, the struggles of black people have been highlighted most recently by alarming findings that black Americans are dying from COVID-19 at a much higher rate compared to white Americans due to systemic, structural racism; and

WHEREAS, marginalized communities, including LGBTQ+ individuals, immigrants, and those with disabilities, are also more likely to be subjected to unjust treatment by law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the recent acts of racism have sparked advocacy, activism, and protests across the Country with groups such as Black Lives Matter demanding action be taken to end this violence; and

WHEREAS, multiple protests have been independently led by students and adults, showing the powerful nature of an activated community that wants to do better and confront all bias and anti-blackness; and

WHEREAS, in alignment with the goal of creating a safe and welcoming community, we value human rights, peace, respect, inclusivity, and equity, and recognize that we derive strength from our diversity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Barbara City Council denounces in the strongest possible terms the actions and inactions by these police officers that resulted in Mr. Floyd's death and to do our part to ensure that this does not happen in the City of Santa Barbara by taking the following actions:

1. To urge the Santa Barbara Police Department to continue to commit to fair and impartial policing policies, continue to develop and implement comprehensive programs to ensure equitable justice policing practices at all levels of the agency; and
2. Direct the City Attorney's Office to return on July 21, 2020, with a City Council presentation on options for establishing an independent civilian police oversight system; and
3. To declare racism as a public health crisis; and
4. To condemn any and all police brutality.

## Board Narrative Response to Black Student Youth SB Demands

### Brief Contextual Overview

For 400 years, Black people in the United States have experienced systemic racism in all aspects of their lives, including and not insignificantly in our nation's schools. Santa Barbara is no exception. On Sunday, June 7, 2020 Black Student Youth SB organized a rally and march to protest the deaths of Black Americans, including George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, and David McAtee, by law enforcement officers. After marching to the school district office, the leaders of Black Student Youth SB presented district leadership with a list of demands related to the education of our community's children and youth. On Monday, June 15, 2020 four leaders of Black Student Youth SB met with members of the school board and district leaders to discuss the demands. At the onset of the meeting student leaders presented a slightly revised list of demands to School Board President Laura Capps. This report presents SB Unified's response to those demands.

**Demand #1: "We demand Ethnic Studies classes with culturally relevant curriculum."**

Research demonstrates that taking Ethnic Studies yields numerous benefits to students of all racial groups. Ethnic Studies classes have been offered as electives in SBUSD for many years, but in November 2018 a graduation requirement was established that would require all students to complete at least one course in Ethnic Studies beginning with the graduating class of 2024. This was achieved in large part through community advocacy and implementation planning, which has been underway for over two years. This fall, over 1,100 SBUSD students are slated to be enrolled in two proposed new SBUSD Ethnic Studies-qualifying courses, and students may also elect to take existing qualifying courses within SBUSD or through the District's Dual Enrollment partnership with Santa Barbara City College.

Ethnic Studies qualifying courses are required to be aligned with the California Department of Education's Model Curriculum for Ethnic Studies, which is an external built-in check-and-balance system to verify that the curriculum is culturally relevant and sustaining. In addition, the course and curriculum development process has and will continue to be grounded in the SBUnified Ethnic Studies Framework, which explicitly acknowledges and draws upon the four foundational disciplines of Ethnic Studies - Africana/Black/African American Studies, American Indian/Native American Studies, Asian American Studies, and Chicanx/Latainx Studies. This includes the use of Ethnic Studies pedagogy, which is a specific form of culturally relevant and sustaining instruction. During a 4-year "Implementing Phase," courses will continue to be revised--and new courses will be incorporated--in conjunction with state standards and ongoing community engagement.

**Board Narrative Response to Black Student Youth SB Demands Demand #2: "We demand SBUSD implement equitable hiring practices and recruit culturally competent teachers of color for Ethnic Studies and all classrooms."**

Research demonstrates that having a diverse teacher workforce benefits all students. Because of this, SBUnified believes that the demand for equitable hiring practices is not only a valid demand, it is also one we are legally bound to and will therefore vigorously pursue this demand. As a response, we will examine our job descriptions, outreach and

recruitment processes, candidate screening practices, interview protocol methods, and our selection process for all teaching and leadership positions to remove any barriers. We will add any protocols that will ensure there are equitable practices in the hiring process as we pursue a teacher workforce that is representative of our student population and community. The importance of building, supporting, and retaining an effective diverse leadership team is also an important factor in supporting teachers of color, successfully implementing broader district plans that prioritize organizational transformation in this area, and supporting the student demands overall.

Specifically, and including and not limited to, we will engage in a rigorous recruitment process to hire culturally competent teachers of color not only for Ethnic Studies, but across all academic disciplines. We will continue to capitalize on programs such as the PEAC Fellowship with UCSB, as well as continue to pursue recruitment partnerships with other teacher preparation programs to yield culturally competent and highly qualified teachers. Teacher retention is an important factor in maintaining a culturally diverse workforce and will also be considered as we address this particular demand. We recognize that an important component in retaining teachers and leaders of color includes creating a diverse, affirming, and inclusive work environment that produces a positive racial climate for staff and students of color.

Demand #3: “We demand SBUSD have School Resource Officers complete bias training class before being allowed to work on campus in addition to de-escalation training and protocols.”

The District will require that all School Resource Officers/Deputies (SRO/SRD) verify completion on professional learning in the following areas: ● De-escalation Techniques ● Implicit Bias ● Cultural Competence ● Adolescent Brain Development ● Working with Students with Disabilities District leadership will work with law enforcement leaders in July 2020 to identify gaps in current learning for those officers and deputies who are currently assigned to our district schools. Where gaps exist, a plan will be created to ensure that training will take place prior to the end of the first semester of the 2020-21 school year.

Board Narrative Response to Black Student Youth SB Demands Additionally, the District will create an evaluative tool to measure student, staff, and parent/guardian perception of SRO/SRDs on each school’s campus. Results will be provided to law enforcement leadership so that it may be used in the officer/deputy’s annual evaluation.

Demand #4: “We demand SBUSD publicly condemn the school to prison pipeline.”

The school board will address this demand by publicly condemning the school to prison pipeline through resolution. However, words are not enough. Words must be followed by work. The District will continue to evaluate its practices through cycles of inquiry, in which we review data to improve our practices, to keep Santa Barbara’s youth in our schools and out of the juvenile justice system. The Assistant Superintendent of Student Services is a member of the Juvenile Justice Convening Council workgroup. This group



serves to implement the action plan that came out of Santa Barbara County's Racial and Ethnic Discrepancies Evaluation, which was conducted by expert faculty in UCSB's Gevirtz Graduate School of Education. In addition, district leadership sit on the South Coast Task Force for Youth Safety, which has a primary focus of keeping youth out of the juvenile justice system. We will continue to pursue professional learning opportunities to build adult capacity in creating diverse and affirming learning environments that value all learners and cultures. Additionally, the District will continue to engage in ongoing conversations about the school to prison pipeline with Black Youth SB in order to share experiences, expectations, and ideas to help evaluate actions and inform improvement.

Demand #5: "We demand SBUSD allocate funds to rehabilitation and mental health services for at-risk youth as an alternative to probation and/or juvenile hall."

In conjunction with Family Service Agency (FSA) and Child Abuse Listening Mediation (CALM), the District currently provides school-based mental health services to students Preschool through 12th grade. Over 1,500 students have received services in the past two years. These services include traditional therapeutic counseling, drug and alcohol services (secondary), and trauma-informed consultation for teachers (elementary). In its efforts to create alternatives to suspension, the District makes referrals for mental health assessment for students who have behavioral concerns. In total, the District allocates over \$1,000,000 per year to fund mental health services in its schools.

Additionally, the District staffs two positions - a Clinical Youth Outreach Worker and a Lead Youth Outreach Coordinator - who work with students who are already involved with or are at risk of entering the juvenile justice system. Working primarily in the high schools, these individuals meet weekly with more than 100 students.

Finally, the District recently received a \$90,000 start-up grant from the Women's Fund of Santa Barbara to start a high school program called Sources of Strength. The program provides evidence-based prevention for suicide, violence, bullying and substance abuse by training,

Board Narrative Response to Black Student Youth SB Demands supporting, and empowering both peer leaders and caring adults to impact their world through the power of connection, hope, help and strength.

Demand #6: " We demand SBUSD adopt a resolution declaring racism as a public health emergency and allocate resources to implement restorative justice practices to deal with hate crimes."

The District began implementing restorative approaches to student behavior during the 2012-2013 school year. An internal program evaluation of the initiative was conducted in 2016-17, showing mixed results, due in part to inconsistent implementation and a need for mutually-reinforcing and -supporting systems and practices to be in place. Student input through the evaluation revealed that in order to mitigate barriers to their success, strong and affirming relationships between students and adults as well as between students and students are essential. In response, the District began focusing on shifting adult mindsets from a zero tolerance philosophy to a restorative way of doing business

that values relationships as the top priority in our schools. By braiding behavioral initiatives that include social emotional learning, culturally responsive teaching, and trauma-informed practices with restorative approaches, the District strives to create affirming learning environments where each student is set up for success.

To this end the District funds the following positions to do the work of implementing restorative approaches and its complementary initiatives:

Coordinator of School Climate and Safety Teacher on Special Assignment-- Student Engagement Dean of Student Engagement (All high schools and junior high schools)  
Elementary Assistant Principals (Four schools)

In February 2020, the District made a commitment in a board meeting to audit its behavioral initiatives (including Restorative Approaches) and conduct a root cause analysis to determine why suspensions have been increasing in the past few years and disproportionality continues to exist between racial groups. A work group will be formed in July 2020 to begin conducting that audit and analysis. The work group will include community members and students.