



TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Michelle Greene, City Manager

CONTACT: Ryan Kintz, Assistant to the City Manager

SUBJECT: Resolution Condemning Police Brutality and Declaring Racism a Public Health Emergency

RECOMMENDATION:

- A. Consider adoption of Resolution No. 20 -____, entitled "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Goleta, California, Condemning Police Brutality and Declaring Racism a Public Health Emergency."
- B. Consider authorizing the Mayor to sign and send a letter to Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown regarding police brutality and racism on behalf of the City Council.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Goleta has a proud record of proclaiming its commitment to inclusivity, diversity and equity. However, with the recent tragedy against George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Sean Reed, Tony McDade, Meagan Hockaday, and the ensuing activism, advocacy and protests that have developed across the country, several councilmembers requested that staff draft the items listed below for City Council's consideration.

- A resolution that states the City's position on the issues of police brutality and racism (Attachment 1); and,
- A letter to Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown requesting collaboration to end police brutality (Attachment 2).

DISCUSSION:

The City Council has expressed a commitment to making Goleta a welcoming, inclusive, and safe community for everyone, and to promoting free thought and speech, while condemning racism and police brutality, hate speech, bigotry, violence and prejudice. Given the legacy of slavery in the United States, the racism that is embedded in many facets of American society, and in remembrance of Jerry Forney, the first black enslaved

resident in Santa Barbara County, the Goleta City Council has an opportunity to take further action now. In drafting this staff report, the attached resolution and letter to the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's office, City Staff reached out to the local Healing Justice Santa Barbara organization to ensure collaboration with our local leaders. Healing Justice Santa Barbara's input was included in this staff report, resolution and letter to the Sheriff.

The proposed resolution for Council's consideration makes a commitment to stand in solidarity with the people of Goleta and the local Healing Justice Santa Barbara organization in opposing police brutality and calling for a declaration of racism as a public health emergency.

The proposed letter to Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown shares the City Council's position opposing police brutality and asks for the Sheriff's support and collaboration in exploring the requests of the Healing Justice Santa Barbara organization. These requests are summarized below:

- Demanding transparency and accountability from Police Departments.
- Disbanding internal department investigations of police misconduct.
- Creation of a civilian review board, with members selected by the community, to investigate occurrences of police misconduct.
- Prioritization of mental health services and rehabilitation before arresting and incarcerating black people.
- Updating police departments' use of force policies to center and focus on de-escalation.
- Stopping the isolation/quarantine of inmates attending court or waiting to be in contact with their lawyers.
- Reducing jail admissions by redirecting people to community-based mental health and substance abuse treatment services.
- Demanding institutional support for an annual Juneteenth celebration, including a city and county commitment to allocate funds for this annual celebration of black emancipation and liberation.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

There are no fiscal impacts associated with this action.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City Council can choose not to adopt the proposed resolution or authorize Mayor Perotte to sign and send the letter to Sheriff Brown or could provide alternative direction to staff.

Reviewed By:

Legal Review By:

Approved By:



Kristine Schmidt
Assistant City Manager

Michael Jenkins
City Attorney

Michelle Greene
City Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution Condemning Police Brutality and Declaring Racism a Public Health Emergency
2. Letter to Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown

ATTACHMENT 1

Resolution Condemning Police Brutality and Declaring Racism a Public Health
Emergency

**AMENDED
RESOLUTION NO. 20-__**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
GOLETA, CALIFORNIA, CONDEMNING POLICE BRUTALITY
AND DECLARING RACISM A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence defined the United States of America as a democracy based on the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and government by the consent of the people; and the 14th Amendment instilled equality of the races into the US Constitution; 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, 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, in the 21st Century, black people in America continue to live in fear of losing their lives at the hands of law enforcement or members of white supremacist groups; 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, on May 27, 2020, 46-year-old father of two, George Floyd, pleaded for his life and was ultimately killed, handcuffed and on the ground, while a police officer pushed his knee into his throat for nine minutes; and

WHEREAS, these types of acts of racism and death continue to plague our country despite many pleas for change; and

WHEREAS, the recent acts of racisms 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, 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 BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GOLETA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1.

The City Council is committed to making Goleta a welcoming, inclusive, and safe community for everyone. While we promote free thought and speech, we condemn racism and police brutality, hate speech, bigotry, violence and prejudice.

SECTION 2.

The City Council is committed to standing in solidarity with the people of Goleta and the Black Lives Matter movement and is dedicated to creating a community where all people can safely, freely and fully engage in our democracy without the fear of those that have sworn to protect them.

SECTION 3.

The City Council declares the issue of racism to be a public health emergency.

SECTION 4.

The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this resolution and enter it into the book of original resolutions.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this ___ day of _____ 2020.

PAULA PEROTTE
MAYOR

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DEBORAH S. LOPEZ
CITY CLERK

MICHAEL JENKINS
CITY ATTORNEY

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA) ss.
CITY OF GOLETA)

I, DEBORAH S. LOPEZ, City Clerk of the City of Goleta, California, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution No. 20-__ was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Goleta at a regular meeting held on the 8th day of June, 2020, by the following roll call vote of the City Council:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

(SEAL)

DEBORAH S. LOPEZ
CITY CLERK

ATTACHMENT 2

Letter to Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown Regarding Police Brutality and
Racism



June 8, 2020

Sheriff Bill Brown
P.O. Box 6427
Santa Barbara
CA 93160

CITY COUNCIL

Paula Perotte
Mayor

Kyle Richards
Mayor Pro Tempore

Roger S. Aceves
Councilmember

Stuart Kasdin
Councilmember

James Kyriaco
Councilmember

CITY MANAGER

Michelle Greene

RE: Condemning Police Brutality and Declaring Racism a Public Health Emergency

Dear Sheriff Bill Brown:

The City of Goleta thanks you and the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department for your continued partnership, support and protection of the City of Goleta residents since the City's incorporation in 2002. Especially during this unprecedented public health crisis, we value the commitment you show to providing quality services to our community and collaborating with our City staff to ensure our residents are safe in the face of crises of all kinds. It is with this spirit of collaboration and partnership in mind that we write this letter to you seeking once again to rally together in solidarity to overcome another crisis facing our community: the challenges of racism and police brutality that our country continues to endure.

The latest tragedy against George Floyd has kindled the flame of advocacy, activism, protests, and support for the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement taking place around the world. The Goleta City Council stands in solidarity with the local Healing Justice Santa Barbara organization, which is demanding action be taken to stop the police brutality, violence and incarceration of black people.

In response to the latest tragedies of police brutality in the United States and the justified demands of the Healing Justice Santa Barbara organization and Black Lives Matter movement, the Goleta City Council has adopted a resolution condemning police brutality and declaring racism a public health emergency. The Healing Justice Santa Barbara organization has demanded the following action be taken at Police Departments in Santa Barbara County:

- Demanding transparency and accountability from Police

Departments.

- Disbanding internal department investigations of police misconduct.
- Creation of a civilian review board, with members selected by the community, to investigate occurrences of police misconduct.
- Prioritization of mental health services and rehabilitation before arresting and incarcerating black people.
- Updating police departments' use of force policies to center and focus on de-escalation.
- Stopping the isolation/quarantine of inmates attending court or waiting to be in contact with their lawyers.
- Reducing jail admissions by redirecting people to community-based mental health and substance abuse treatment services.
- Demanding institutional support for an annual Juneteenth celebration, including a city and county commitment to allocate funds for this annual celebration of black emancipation and liberation.

We ask for your support in these matters by exploring options for your department to begin to implement these requests of the local Healing Justice Santa Barbara organization. Keeping in mind our limited knowledge of what policies and measures you and the department have already implemented, we appreciate all and every action taken to end police brutality and systemic racism that exists in our society.

The City of Goleta greatly appreciates your consideration of these issues and looks forward to further discussing how together we can continue to best protect the citizens of Goleta. Thank you again for your leadership and partnership during these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Paula Perotte
Mayor, City of Goleta