

Joint Statement Calling for Solidarity with Black Lives and Policing Reform

June 1, 2020

To Our Fellow Community Members of San Diego County:

We are writing to you from the Luiseño, Kumeyaay, Cahuilla, and Cupeno Nations, what is known in California as San Diego County. We honor and thank the original people of this land. We center the names of our Black siblings killed and attacked around the United States and world, particularly by police violence. This impacts community members through systems and policies designed to target those who are most underserved and under protected.

On May 25th, George Floyd was murdered by police. Video of his last moments show a police officer's use of excessive force as his colleagues stand by complicit. His murder has caused outrage and pain for another life senselessly lost to racist violence. George Floyd joins a long list of lives cut short due to the color of their skin. Just this year alone Breonna Taylor was killed in her own home by police and Ahmaud Arbery was targeted and killed by fellow residents while jogging.

These last few weeks have shown again the reality of racism that the Black community experiences daily. We as elected officials unequivocally condemn racism and racist violence. We stand **united against hate** and will fight anti-Blackness within our own cities and county.

We stand **united** with Black lives because we know, without doubt, that Black lives are killed senselessly, without regard for humanity, and all too often without justice. We stand **united** in affirming what we have all seen: **the murder of Black lives.**

George Floyd could not breathe. He was murdered. He must have justice.

Breonna Taylor was killed in her own home. She was murdered. She must have justice.

Ahmaud Arbery was killed while on a jog. He was murdered. He must have justice.

We call for police reform and an end to police violence. Regulations involving excessive use of force must be documented and demographic data collected. There are racial disparities when comparing excessive force rates. Furthermore, we need to add more to what "excessive force" means in the penal code, e.g. it currently does not include strangulation (carotid restraints) in the definition, which frankly must be banned. These

chokeholds are used against people of color, especially Black individuals, disproportionately. Peaceful policing can be done.

We stand in solidarity with our Black community. Daily events such as the deaths of Mr. Floyd, Ms. Taylor, and Mr. Arbery need to be reviewed with full transparency and must not be normalized. **These deep rooted systemic problems in our society, including law enforcement, must be addressed.**

As individuals who have the opportunity to speak up as public officials, we will continue to elevate this message. We urge our colleagues to do the same. If we are in this space, we must do more than we are currently doing. We must be better allies. We must create and fight for systemic change.

In solidarity with Black lives,
Paloma Aguirre, Mayor Pro Tempore, City of Imperial Beach
Martha Alvarado, Trustee, Vista Unified School Board
Marco Amaral, Trustee, South Bay Union School District
David Arambula, Council Member, City of Lemon Grove
Kristi Becker, Council Member, City of Solana Beach
Priya Bhat-Patel, Council Member, City of Carlsbad
Catherine Blakespear, Mayor, City of Encinitas
Jen Campbell, MD, Council Member, City of San Diego, District 2
Leticia Cazares, Trustee, Southwestern College Governing Board
Corinna Contreras, Council Member, City of Vista
Serge Dedina, Mayor, City of Imperial Beach
Mike Diaz, Council Member, City of Chula Vista
Olga Diaz, Council Member, City of Escondido
David Druker, Council Member, City of Del Mar
Terry Gaasterland, Deputy Mayor, City of Del Mar
Jill Galvez, Deputy Mayor, City of Chula Vista
Georgette Gomez, Council President, City of San Diego, District 9
Kelly Harless, Council Member, City of Solana Beach
Judy Hegenauer, Deputy Mayor, City of Solana Beach
Kellie Hinze, Deputy Mayor, City of Encinitas
Jody Hubbard, Council Member, City of Encinitas
Claudine Jones, Board Trustee, Carlsbad Unified School District
Eric Joyce, Trustee, Oceanside Unified School District
Consuelo Martinez, Deputy Mayor, City of Escondido
Paul McNamara, Mayor, City of Escondido

Monica Montgomery, Council Member, City of San Diego, District 4
Vivian Moreno, Council Member, City of San Diego, District 8
Joe Mosca, Council Member, City of Encinitas
Marla Strich, Trustee, Encinitas Union School District
Maria Nuñez, Council Member, City of San Marcos
Stacy Carlson, Trustee, San Marcos Unified School District
Steve Padilla, Council Member, City of Chula Vista
Robert Patton, Council Member, City of Imperial Beach
Kathy Rallings, Board Trustee, Carlsbad Unified School District
Eduardo Reyes, Board Member, Chula Vista Elementary School District
Mary Salas, Mayor, City of Chula Vista
Esther Sanchez, Council Member, City of Oceanside
Ed Spriggs, Council Member, City of Imperial Beach
Cipriano Vargas, Trustee, Vista Unified School Board
Nora Vargas, President, Southwestern Community College Board
Racquel Vasquez, Mayor, City of Lemon Grove
Randy Walton, Council Member, City of San Marcos
Christopher Ward, Council Member, City of San Diego, District 3
Mark West, Council Member, City of Imperial Beach,
Veronica Williams, Board Trustee, Carlsbad Unified School District
Dwight Worden, Council Member, City of Del Mar
David Zito, Council Member, City of Solana Beach