

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 6A - Public Comment, June 23 RPCC Meeting
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 3:17:45 PM

EXTERNAL EMAIL

The staff's recommendations are missing a few very important, key elements.

1. The constituents and residents have spoken and many have asked for a Community Oversight Committee.
2. Councilmember Belforte's ignored recommendation for sensitivity or anti-racism training for all of the listening members **MUST** be revisited. It is vital to understand and label our own white privilege and unconscious biases. People can not listen and then try to reform policies without being actively anti-racist.

Julie M. Royes
District 2, Rohnert Park

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 6A
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:44:35 PM

EXTERNAL EMAIL

Dear Rohnert Park Elected Officials,

Re: Agenda Item 6A

We urge you to begin discussions of a civilian oversight committee for the Rohnert Park Police Department immediately. You were elected to represent your constituents, that includes the 3% of whom are black and 29% of whom are Latinx. As an all-white city council, we ask you to listen to your residents when we say a generic pledge is not enough and we need action now. We ask you to listen to us when we say we need a civilian oversight committee and not a mere photo opportunity with this resolution. We ask you to listen to families when we say we worry for our black and brown children day in and day out at the hands of police, while you have nothing to fear. Our lives are at stake here, not yours. Our kids' lives are at stake here, not yours.

We can't expect you to understand, but we do expect you to listen to our concerns and respond accordingly. The resolution falls nothing short of insulting. You expect us to provide you with bedtime stories about our encounters with police in this near attempt of a storytelling session, and then what? You go home and check-off one more item from your to-do list, while the rest of your citizens have to continue living in fear wondering if we are next in this roll-call of brown and black bloodshed at the hands of police. This is not something that can be fixed in 1-2 town halls.

Director Mattis' "Eight Can't Wait Alignment with the City Use of Force Policies" statement attempted to silence our request for a civilian oversight committee, but in fact, it highlights why we need a civilian oversight committee as soon as possible. Our country is set on principles of check and balance, who - besides the police - provides the check and balance to their actions? We, those who have elected you, who pay for police salaries', deserve to check and balance those who are supposed to serve us, but instead kill us.

Signed,

Darlene Sandoval, District 2

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 6A
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:04:53 PM

EXTERNAL EMAIL

Dear City Council Members -

One week ago, you were commended for taking on the issue of social and racial injustice. FAIR-RP supports your efforts to engage the community in our collective response as a city to systemic and blatant racism.

In that meeting, you received 22 strong and heartfelt public comments that called for:

- Citizen participation in a committee review of city policies and practices.
- Establishment of a public safety citizen oversight board.
- Going beyond the My Brother's Keeper pledge and formally align with the 8Can'tWait set of practices.
- The need to listen to your community and respond to it.

Although this item's resolution starts to stand against racism, it falls woefully short of what the public asked of you.

The city council has, time and again, ignored public comment in the past and let its own interests guide decisions – sometimes leading to unintended racist consequences. This continued practice has eroded the public's trust in you and is, once again, evident in the resolution you are bringing forward.

Tonight is the night you can change the trajectory of distrust and boldly take action against racism. Add the input the community offered, no, DEMANDED, in their comments. Amend the resolution to include:

- A committee of city staff and citizen representatives to review city policy & practice
- A Public Safety Citizen Oversight Board
- Go beyond the My Brother's Keeper pledge and publicly adopt the 8Can'tWait practices, too.
- Make ongoing sensitivity training mandatory for all staff and councilmembers

Most importantly, add power and action to the first resolution statement. Condemning racism is not enough. Add your commitment to swiftly address racism in any form, intended or unintended.

Submitted by Chris Borr on behalf of FAIR-RP

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 6A
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:23:09 PM

EXTERNAL EMAIL

Good Afternoon,

Once again today we, as a community, stand before you to ask for something that has been a concern for quite sometime now. We understand that when we talk about our Public Safety Department many think that we are attacking them but in reality it is the opposite. Having a community forum on racism and implementing the My Brother's Keeper pledge is a good start but it doesn't go far enough. The community is asking for civilian oversight of our Public Safety Department. If you really want to deal with inequality in our community you will need real input from the community. Without the community being involved this whole process is a sham. A non political entity should be able to investigate misbehavior in the department and recommend which appropriate disciplinary actions should be taken. We all can agree that self investigation is a dramatic conflict of interest. Our public safety can't investigate itself and our city council has not had the courage to speak up about the issues.

Now is the time to do something. Now is the time to bring the change that both sides would greatly appreciate. We need accountability from all sides to rebuild the trust that has long gone. Please consider the many public comments that the community sends every meeting without brushing it off further. Put together a civilian oversight committee that will work with our Public Safety Department. I hope the friendly city can help lead the way in our County.

Thank you,

Jackie Elward

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 6A
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 11:38:23 AM

EXTERNAL EMAIL

At a bare minimum, we should begin by condemning racism, acknowledging that it exists in our community, and that it affects many residents in our city. Signing the “My Brother’s Keeper” pledge is a good start, but it’s just a start. We need civilian oversight of policing. While many policies of the 8 Can’t Wait may be in effect, it does not mean that they are being accurately implemented or solving all our problems. Actual accountability is vital to these policies being upheld.

We also need to look at budgets and allocate resources appropriately for the health and safety of ALL community members, especially those often overlooked or not considered.

Also, please be aware that in case you are not “hearing” stories of racism from residents of Rohnert Park does not mean they aren’t happening. It could be a reflection of how comfortable people feel approaching this charged subject with people in power, meaning you. I am glad you are being aware of inclusiveness and equity in your outreach. I hope it’s successful.

I hope to continue to see action on police reform and racism. This should not be a momentary thing that fades and is forgotten. These are huge important issue we cannot ignore. We are watching your actions and will remember in November.

Thank you,
Sarah Griffith
L section resident

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Cc: [Jenkins, Darrin](#); [Mattos, Tim](#)
Subject: Agenda item 6A: My Brother's Keeper
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 3:07:54 PM

EXTERNAL EMAIL

Mr. Mayor, Members of the Council:

I have lived in Rohnert Park for over 30 years. I have known and worked with many members of the Department of Public Safety. The officers and other personnel I have worked with have always been of the highest caliber, and concerned about the welfare of the citizens of Rohnert Park.

In many of the recent national episodes of violence that involved police officers, even to the death of either a suspect or the officer, every episode has one thing in common: the suspect, or person being apprehended, did something to escalate the situation. By either attacking the police officer or attempting to flee, the person caused the situation to escalate above the common stop-and-question. Police officers are trained to control the situation, and, by escalating the situation, the person caused the officer to escalate his/her response.

The two most recent examples, George Floyd in Minneapolis and Rayshard Brooks in Atlanta, prove this point. Many people focus on the published videos of the end of the situation without looking at what led up to that end. While I in no way mean to excuse the conduct of Officer Derek Chauvin of Minneapolis, look at the video of the events leading up to his actions: Mr. Floyd actively resisted arrest by the officers and was difficult to restrain. Similarly, Mr. Brooks resisted arrest, fought with the 2 officers, knocked one of them down and stole his Taser, ran from the officers, and turned and pointed the Taser at one of them. If Messrs. Floyd and Brooks had cooperated with the police officers, the two would still be with us today.

Let's make sure that, in our efforts to revise police procedures, we don't hamstring the policeman's efforts to keep the rest of us safe.

Thank you for your time.

Joe Gaffney

[REDACTED]
Rohnert Park

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: comment, item 6A
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 4:17:00 PM

EXTERNAL EMAIL

I appreciate reaffirming "racism is bad", although I think it's a bit "kumbaya" and no teeth. There simply is no excuse for not implementing a citizen oversight board that has the authority to hire and fire officers, and even the Chief, by unanimous decision. After all, these are public employees, who work for the people. And if the people want an officer removed, it should be so. This board should also have some say over the police budget, what it's spent on and whether enough has been spent in any given year. Police are supposed to protect and serve the people, keeping us all safer. But too often, through no fault of the officers themselves, that's not how they are used. Let's make police accountable to the people they work for.

Thank you,

Jason Kishneff

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment for Item 6.A on June 23
Date: Saturday, June 20, 2020 12:42:00 PM

EXTERNAL EMAIL

My public comment is in bold and quotations. It's 279 words long.

"Throughout the considered resolution that is intended to 'condemn racism' and 'Reassert the City's Commitment to Serving the Residents of Rohnert Park Regardless of Race or Background' I noticed the recurring claim of the intention to reach out to communities that are predominantly POC. How are you going to ensure that these communities are heard? Remember it's a privilege to feel safe talking to a local government official, it's a privilege to have the time of day to talk on the phone about disparities within your community, it's a privilege to be heard regardless of race, ethnicity, and/or socioeconomic status. Please note that we DON'T need REFORM. We NEED ABOLITION. Reform enables loopholes, resulting in injustices within the policing system persisting. Discovering that the current policing policies are similar to *8cantwait* policies isn't a victory, and shouldn't be something to be proud of. Those policies are BARE MINIMUM. We need progression - we need abolition. I encourage you to look at the website 8toaboliton.com, in addition to reviewing Ayanna Pressley's most recent resolution that condemns police brutality to help frame yours. Ayanna Pressley is the U.S. Representative for Massachusetts's 7th congressional district. It's also important to note that reasserting 'the City's Commitment to Serving the Residents of Rohnert Park Regardless of Race or Background' takes more than just insufficient policies. The racism that our country and community are built on is systemic. It's within our education, housing, hiring, and even in our local government. We need people such as yourselves to use your power and privilege to stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement in order to combat systemic racism. Thank you, Black Lives Matter."

Thank you,

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Nikki Magallanes

She/Her/Hers

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment in Support of Agenda Item 6.A. for 6/23 RP City Council Meeting
Date: Thursday, June 18, 2020 10:17:38 PM

EXTERNAL EMAIL

To the City Council,

I am writing to fully support the 6/23 RP City Council Meeting Agenda Item 6.A to adopt Resolution 2020-057

We are having a historic national conversation about policing and race and it is imperative the City of Rohnert Park participate in this conversation. The steps laid out in the Analysis section of the Agenda Report for Item 6.A are, in my view, a thoughtful way for our community to have this conversation.

I am a recent graduate of Leadership Rohnert Park, a wonderful program that I was honored to be a part of. I was proud to see my Leadership colleague, Jackie Elward, lead the Black Lives Matter march in Rohnert Park last weekend. I have learned so much from Jackie during my time in Leadership and I think her voice and what she and her family represent is essential for this conversation in our community.

Very sincerely,

Matt Valkovic
K-Section
Rohnert Park, CA

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment, Item 6.A.
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 6:52:27 PM

EXTERNAL EMAIL

Thank you to the Staff for adding Equality Policy and Practice Review to the City's website and making it easy to find. I recommend that a general statement condemning racism and affirming the city's commitment to equality and fairness be prominently displayed on the website and on City bulletin boards.

I'm glad the City is taking action to review our City's police use of force policies and I approve of the Staff's recommendation to receive input regarding other City policies as well. I'm also glad the City is reaching out for input from People of Color within our community as part of this process. I ask our City Council and City Staff, individually and collectively, to also seek out and expand their education about systemic racism and how to be an anti-racist. Please do not expect our ethnically diverse community members to provide that education (although it is important to listen with an open mind) and do not assume that, if members or leaders do not come forward, no problem exists. There may be a number of reasons for people to be reluctant to come forward, including lack of trust and previous experiences that have made people feel uncomfortable interacting with our City's law enforcement or leaders.

Please also recognize that this is only the beginning of the work that needs to be done. Systemic racism is built into our institutions and even the way many of us think and it will take a lot of work and a lot of time to change it. But it's important, urgent work and we need to keep at it. Because systems that don't work for everyone work for no one and there are lives at stake.

Thank you,
Holly Neal
District 3

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Rohnert Park City Council Meeting Agenda Item 6.A 06.23.2020
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 3:39:41 PM

EXTERNAL EMAIL

To Whom It May Concern,

My husband and I recently bought a home in Rohnert Park - we grew up in the county but had been living in the Bay Area for the past 10 years. I'm writing today to urge the City Council to adopt 6.A Resolution Condemning Racism, Reasserting the City's Commitment to Serving the Residents of Rohnert Park Regardless of Race or Background and Committing to the "My Brother's Keeper" Initiative for Review of Police Use of Force Policies.

I'd like to also voice my support for civilian oversight when reviewing police use of force policies. There are four parts to the My Brother's Keeper Pledge - 1. Review your police use of force policies, 2. Engage your communities by including a diverse range of input, experiences, and stories in your review. 3. Report the findings of your review to your community and seek feedback. 4. Reform your community's police use of force policies.

I'd like to understand, if adopted, how the City Council will move forward to ensure that there's civilian oversight and community involvement throughout this process.

I want to see from my new city that we are moving in the right direction to serious change that is past due.

Thank you,
Melissa Bennett