



Santa Cruz County Women's Commission

701 Ocean Street, Fifth Floor, Room 510
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2772 (F) 831-454-2411 TTY/TDD: 711
commissions@santacruzcounty.us
www.sccwc.org

September 29, 2020
Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors
701 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: Support for the *Black Lives Matter Movement*

Dear Chair Caput and Members of the Board:

The purpose of this letter is to express our formal support for the *Black Lives Matter Movement* and to applaud your continued commitment to anti-racism efforts in Santa Cruz County.

The *Santa Cruz County Women's Commission* is tasked with representing the interests of Santa Cruz County women. To that end, we recognize that not all Santa Cruz County women have equal voices and opportunities yet. As progressive as this County may be, there remain women who continue to be marginalized because of their race or ethnicity. Recent *Black Lives Matter Movement* efforts, including those of local activist Esabella Bonner, have galvanized our own commitment to addressing remaining racial or ethnic disparities impacting the experience of women and their children in Santa Cruz County.

The killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery, Elijah McClain, Tamir Rice, Tanisha Anderson, Walter Scott, Sandra Bland, Michael Brown, Trayvon Martin and countless others highlight the pervasive racism and deeply-rooted social injustice that plague this nation. The institutionalized violence that continues to impact the collective experience of all people of color demands an urgent response. To that end, we join in solidarity with millions of other Americans to take a stand against racism, injustice and hate, particularly as they affect Black women and other women of color and their children.

Your Board has always demonstrated a commitment to providing equal opportunity, respect and advancement for people of color in Santa Cruz County, including your recent *Resolution declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis*. Today, we acknowledge your commitment to anti-racism and request your continued support for any local, State or national legislation that also seeks to eliminate and protect against systemic racism and institutionalized violence against people of color.

On behalf of the *Santa Cruz County Women's Commission*, we thank you for your continued support for Black women and other women of color and their children in Santa Cruz County.

Respectfully,



Jillian Ritter, *Commission Co-Chair*



Theresa M. Cariño, *Commission Co-Chair*