

August 26, 2020

Supervisor Hilda Solis, 1st District
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, 2nd District
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, 3rd District
Supervisor Janice Hahn, 4th District
Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th District - Chair

Cc: Robin Toma – Executive Director Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission

Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:

We write with deep concern about the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission's recently released [report](#) titled "Redefining Policing with Our Community."

The 78-page report claims to be "A Collaborative Report From the Testimony of Los Angeles County Residents and Stakeholders." And while LACHRC over a period of several months organized public hearings on various aspects of policing and gathered testimony from hundreds of LA County residents, unfortunately the collaborative piece ended once the hearings ended.

Several months after the conclusion of the public hearings, in March 2020, HRC reached out to organizations for review of the draft of the report stating, "in the continued spirit of collaboration we send it in advance of its release to solicit your comments and suggestions." We, the stakeholder organizations, in the spirit of collaboration and having been key informants at the hearings responded with commitment to share our review. Our expectation was that as key informants at the hearings our recommendations would be incorporated into any final copy.

Upon close scrutiny we found clear contradictions in particular sections of the report between what the community and organizations had recommended during the Public Hearings and what was stated in the report as a "public safety reform." A group of organizations including Black Lives Matter – LA, Black Lives Matter – Long Beach, Dignity and Power Now, Los Angeles Community Action Network, and Stop LAPD Spying Coalition communicated their concern very clearly to the HRC staff and demanded that they rectify the matter with immediate effect before the release of the report.

The above-mentioned organizations have a long history of leading the fight against Police and State violence in Los Angeles. The concerns shared with HRC were based on the years

of experience, knowledge, analysis, and direct participation in building grassroots movements to dismantle police violence.

Yet HRC dismissed our concerns and in mid-July informed us that they released the final report as is. This is not only a mockery of the process but also highly disrespectful of organizations and community members who have spent their lifetime in fighting and organizing against state violence. This makes it even more disconcerting that an organizations whose mission is to promote “positive race and human relations,” fails to uphold the deep contributions of individuals and organizations in making Los Angeles a peaceful place that fosters positive relations free of state violence.

We urge you to direct the LA County Human Relations to make the necessary amendments to the report with immediate effect. Anything short of that would render this report lacking in its true intent representing the vision and recommendations of the people.

We look forward to hearing back soon.

Sincerely,

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