From: Elizabeth <>

Sent: Sunday, July 19, 2020 4:07 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) < CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Citizen Response to Agenda item on Monday

To San Mateo City Council

I found out by chance that the San Mateo City Council is considering a Black Lives Matter Mural on our city streets.

I keep hearing that this is by the voice of the people. I was never asked by vote and or petition if I a citizen of San Mateo wanted this. I do not.

Let me make this clear. Black peoples lives matter. I am against racism. But I will not support the Black Lives Matter Organization after reading their mission statement and goals. Ties to terrorism is evident when you examine their leadership. I do not feel that a BLM mural is representative of all citizens of San Mateo.

If you go ahead with that mural then all other organizations murals have to be allowed, including Blue Lives Matter, All Lives Matter, Animal Lives Matter and so on. You can not allow one and discriminate against others.

If the city council goes forward with this mural then please dont force it on all of the citizens who had no say in the matter. Place it in front of the Mayor's house or any one of the City Council since you alone will have had decided on it.

As San Mateo City Council you have an obligation to represent ALL citizens not just a fraction or any one personal view. I firmly believe that a mural on a public street should be left to the voters not to self appointed decision makers.

And I add I was never asked or voted on defunding the police either. Another issue I am livid that the San Mateo City Council took upon themselves to represent all the citizens without asking us. It is not representative of me and many others to defund the police. Its a slap in the face to our law enforcement.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Ayala San Mateo CA

"The day will come when men such as I will look upon the murder of animals as they do the murder of men"-Leonardo DaVinci.

"That day is now"- Elizabeth Ayala.

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way it's animals are treated"- Mahatma Gandhi.

Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 2:15 PM

To: Joe Goethals < jgoethals@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: City Council (San Mateo) < CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: BLM Mural

Dear Mayor Joe Goethals,

As a long time citizen of San Mateo I am opposed to any Mural depicting Black Lives Matter. It only invites divisiveness and Violence. Also any talk of defunding the Police department I believe would be counter productive. Our Police in San Mateo do a fine job. In fact funding for the San Mateo Police department should be increased to keep this city and it's citizens and property safe.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

David A. Baldi

Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 8:45 AM

To: City Council (San Mateo) < CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>; Joe Goethals

<igoethals@citvofsanmateo.org>

Cc: LOUISE BEKINS <>

Subject: BLM Resolution and Mural

Resolution Supporting Black Lives Matter Movement and Consideration of Black Lives Matter Street Mural

Adopt a Resolution of support for the Black Lives Matter movement reaffirming the City of San Mateo's commitment to racial equity and consider commissioning a mural that would read "Black Lives Matter" to be painted on a street in San Mateo.

Good morning Councilpersons,

I have been deep in prayer the last several days for answers to peace in our Nation and City of San Mateo.

I have relatives that are dying. We have neighbors and friends who have lost their jobs and businesses. Many have sleepless nights wondering if we are going to be the next victims of violent protests here in San Mateo. We fear the proposed BLM mural could be such a catalyst. !!

I have watched thousands of hours of news, read hundreds of articles, analyzed historical accounts of racial unrest and riots over centuries. I have lived my life around minorities. Now I have Chinese, Indian, and Black neighbors. We get along fine; respect and treasure each other. None of us would consider ourselves racist. In fact, we never even thought of it until these last few months when the news media, institutions (and communications from members of SM City Councilmembers) are pounding those "racist" thoughts into our heads.

Simply put, I find it hard to believe that you would even consider supporting BLM since they have Marxist ideologies, trained Marxist leaders and funding. If the City's commitment is to support racial equity, this certainly can be done without supporting a group with intentions to tear / apart our beautiful country, our beloved America! And probably our City in the process.

Our businesses have already suffered tremendously from the Covid lock-downs, loss of jobs and incomes. My friends and neighbors are saying that there is no way they will go to San Mateo to shop or eat if a BLM mural is put up......which of course, adds further to the lack of business for those shop keepers and restaurants.

I urge you to NOT APPROVE THE MURAL.

Councilman Joe Goethals, please do not take a knee as a representative of our City in the future.

Councilwoman Amourence Lee, please do not bring any more destructive ideas to our City.

I encourage all of you to find ways to be uplifting and inspiring role-models for our children and City. Ideas that show positive ways all people can build their lives, support themselves and make contributions to America and San Mateo. Not to come up with ideas that bring fear, terror, loss of income and business.

We do not have a "racist" problem, rather we have a "sin" problem.

Sincerely.

Louise Bekins

Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 11:30 AM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org> **Cc:** LOUISE BEKINS < >; Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: BLM mural article - Today's Daily Post - Don't miss

Hello Councilpersons,

I just found there is a great article in today's Palo Alto Daily Post on Redwood City's experience with the BLM mural (front page). I suggest you get (and read) a copy before tonight's meeting. .

It lists comments from residents and business people. Similar to serious concerns we have here in San Mateo.

It's a chance for you to learn from their mistakes.

Reminder: Please DO NOT approve BLM mural.

Thank you,

Louise Bekins San Mateo **Sent:** Monday, July 20, 2020 9:25 AM **To:** Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: No BLM 'murals' in San Mateo, nor anywhere!

Allowing only BLM to paint on the streets is unfair, does not pass muster under the 1st Amendment and the Equal Protection Clause of our Constitution. If city makes street asphalt to be a public forum, then let anyone with a message paint on it. Constitution does not allow the city to be an arbiter of the private expression.

Painting non-traffic signals on asphalt is dangerous and impedes traffic

We all stand for rights of Black Americans, but BLM does not

BLM official platform is Marxist and advocates for violent overthrow of our government

BLM is offensive to all immigrants from Communist countries, all former Soviet block, China, Vietnam, Cuba, Venezuela, etc as it advocates for the same thing we all fleed.

BLM is offensive to Jews as it is an openly anti-Semitic organization

If city wants to show its commitment to civil rights, there are less divisive ways to do that: monument to MLK, John Lewis, etc. Normal monument approval takes months and months of public input. San Mateo shortcut the procedure, barely did any public input and is thus exposing itself to legal challenges at taxpayers' expense.

This is not needed, nor necessary to get any message across.

Thank you.
Julie Berkson

From: Bill Bleich <>

Sent: Sunday, July 19, 2020 2:25:47 PM

To: Joe Goethals < <u>igoethals@cityofsanmateo.org</u>>; Eric Rodriguez < <u>erodriguez@cityofsanmateo.org</u>>; Rick

Bonilla < RBonilla@cityofsanmateo.org >; Amourence Lee < alee@cityofsanmateo.org >; Diane Papan

<dpapan@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: re: Black Lives Matter mural

City Council Members:

I am a 35 yr resident of San Mateo and retired city employee after 27 plus years. I am against the Black Lives Matter for a couple of reasons. First and foremost your using tax payer money for a mural that is just as much offensive to people as it is comforting to people yes I know the cost is minimal but it is still tax payer money, 2ND regardless of what people say your sending the message that only black lives matter, well don't all lives matter? Yes they do but if you say that you are called a racist, your sending the message that only black lives matter. I am sure you don't mean too but from where I sit that is what your doing.

Please don't know allow this to happen, instead do something for the whole community. Maybe paint a mural that represents the history of the city.

Thank you, I have included my phone number in case you would like to discuss this with me. Email is best though.

Bill Bleich

Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 1:22 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>; Planning <planning@cityofsanmateo.org>; PR Commission Mailbox <PRCommissionMailbox@CityofSanMateoOrg.onmicrosoft.com>; City Mgr <citymgr@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Clean Streets

Dear City of San Mateo Representatives,

I'm writing to express a preference for clean streets. One of the joys of going for a walk is to be able to do so without obstructions immediately in the walkway or adjacent to them. Safety is also important so it would not be in the interest of safety to have slogans or murals on public streets as this would be a point of distraction and may discourage business due to safety. Please keep the streets clean.

Sincerely, Joe Sent: Sunday, July 19, 2020 3:26 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) < CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Council Special Meeting

Dear City Council Members,

I will not be able to join your meeting on Zoom tomorrow evening, however, I would like to provide my thoughts on two matters:

Regarding the defunding of the police, this can only lead to dire consequences down the road. I hear daily regarding the systemic racism in the police departments. I do believe there are racist police officers out there, but it is far from systemic. A better way to handle this is with better vetting of new officers and also not hiring new officers who have had problems in other departments. I have been very blessed to live in San Mateo for 45 years and have always had a very positive experience with the police department any time I have needed them. (Fortunately, the times have been few)

My second thought is the resolution to paint "Black Lives Matter" on a street in San Mateo.

I am not aware of the cost for this action, but I can not understand how this would help the black community in any way. Perhaps another thought would be to donate that funding to an organization that actually helps the low income communities in a more positive manner.

An example of an organization like that would be the "Woodson Foundation". If you have time, look it up on the internet and you will find that it helps families far more than a street being painted. This foundation provides counseling, mentoring and opportunities to the communities throughout the United States. I know that money would be far better spent and you would still be doing something positive for the community.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely, Maureen Galindo From: Chuck Kabala < >

Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 7:52:42 AM

To: Rick Bonilla < RBonilla@cityofsanmateo.org >

Subject: Black Lives Matter

If the City of San Mateo were to paint "Black Lives Matter" on one of our streets they would be affirming the following:

- That they agree with the founding principles of that organization.
 - That Trevor Martin, a black man, was murdered by a Hispanic man. (This is, in fact, a false statement.)
- That they agree that a paternalistic family is not in the best interest of the black community.
- That the city council is not in violation of any campaign finance laws in partnering with an organization that fronts as a fundraiser exclusively for candidates of the Democratic Party.
- That they are willing to promote one racial group over others and that in so doing they are not fomenting racism.
- That they are willing to invite additional protests and suffer security costs if they should turn violent—hazarding the members of our citizenry and police department.
- That they are prepared to indemnify local business interests (who once already have suffered the cost of boarding up their business).
- That they wish to engage in patronizing virtue signaling.

As a long term resident of San Mateo I oppose any and all activities that promote one racial group over another.

It would seem that while all lives matter, some lives matter more than others—unless of course, you are willing to place in front of "Black Lives Matter", "White Lives Matter", "Yellow Lives Matter", "Brown Lives Matter", followed by "Red Lives Matter" reflecting the true ethnic diversity of San Mateo.

Respectfully, Charles Kabala From: Karen <>

Sent: Saturday, July 18, 2020 3:40:12 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) < CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Black lives Matter street Mural

This is not appropriate for our city. It does not represent any real change, costs time and Tax dollars. This sounds like political posturing to a small community living in san Mateo. We all have causes that actually concern people in San Mateo, are we going to be allowed to have murals also? Sounds to us that our city council has lately been dealing with political issues not city issues and that is not their job.

It is time the citizens living in San Mateo pay closer attention to their ELECTED city council and how they are spending their efforts and our tax dollars.

John and Karen Kennedy

Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 1:22 PM

To: City Mgr <citymgr@cityofsanmateo.org>; PR Commission Mailbox

<PRCommissionMailbox@CityofSanMateoOrg.onmicrosoft.com>; Planning <planning@cityofsanmateo.org>;

Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Objection to BLM mural on city streets

Good afternoon,

I cannot attend the meeting tonight due to classes, but wish to make my opinion clear.

I am not a resident of San Mateo City, but much of my life has been spent there (high school, renting rooms, frequenting malls and stores in the city, friends, etc.). I reside in San Carlos.

- 1. 1st Amendment concerns: painting one mural on the city streets requires allowing other murals from other viewpoints in equal access, including Make America Great Again and others, which are not trending at this time;
- 2. Safety concerns: painting non-safety related art or political statements creates a safety hazard for motorists, and may create an "attractive nuisance";
- 3. Wrongful arrest: anyone who skids or defaces the statement may be subject to unlawful arrest, as in accidentally skidding on the mural, dropping serving that Mars the mural, or any number of real or perceived threats to said mural;
- 4. Does such a mural match the belief of your constituency??? Have you polled the majority of your constituents? Placed this issue on a ballot?

To carry this further, do not refund the police. So many believe that police are contributing to problems. First, the data does not support such a position. Second, police officers not only enforce the law, but they provide and direct much needed services to those in need. Police officers act as law enforcement, diplomats, community relations experts, mediators, moderators, and eyes on the ground to address the best and worst situations of public and private life.

If you do not believe me, attend the Academy. Ride along with your officers. See their lives, their efforts to keep this society on track.

Please do not perform a rash act for publicity, for political clout, or to satisfy the current mob's wishes.

Thank you.

Michael O'Connor

Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 2:35 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>; Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: July 20, 2020 - Council Review of Police Budget and Mayor's Message

We believe that the San Mateo Police Department, with few exceptions is doing a great job and that funding for that department should **not** be reduced. The Citizens of San Mateo have high expectations that Safety & Peace in our neighborhoods will continue, as it has in the past. Defunding and/or any significant Policing policy changes, would be contrary to those expectations.

The Mayor's Message (Joe Goethals) is very concerning, although, not directly referring to the Political Movement "BLACK LIVES MATTER". The stated concepts of "Social Justice" and "Racial Equality", terms used in the Mayor's Message, without defining exactly what they mean, seems like major talking points of the "BLACK LIVES MATTER", a raciest organization.

The BLACK LIVES MATTER organization was founded by Marxist individuals and seems to have a goal of tearing down this Country by further dividing it.

We do not believe that the goals of the BLACK LIVES MATTER organization should have any place in the goals and policies of The City of San Mateo.

Sincerely,

Arnold Rodman Deborah Leizgold

Long time residents, property owners & voters in the City of San Mateo

Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 11:23 AM **To:** Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: PUBLC COMMENT: City council meeting July 20, 2020

With regard to agenda item 29, I would like to draw the Council's attention to events in Redwood City, where the city chose to remove a Black Lives Matter mural rather than allow "MAGA2020" to be painted alongside it. The story was reported by the CBS affiliate, https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2020/07/19/redwood-city-street-mural-blm-trump-maga.

The Council must realize (as the council in Redwood City apparently had not) that by painting a controversial political message on a city street they are creating a speech forum in which citizens with diverse viewpoints will wish and be entitled to participate. Should the Council in San Mateo decide to proceed, it must choose a location for the mural where multiple, opposing opinions can be expressed without impacting traffic or causing safety concerns.

Boris Slutsky

Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 9:12 AM

To: City Council (San Mateo) < CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Sutherland Carl M < >; Calderwood Nancy < >; Richards Gary < >; <hueyprater > < >; Gage Ralph < >; Moore Larry < >; Morford Sam < >; Collison Dale < >; Childers Ted < >; lisabhna@gmail.com; Sutherland JoAnn < >

Subject: Fwd: Meeting of City Council of San Mateo July 21, 2020

Sirs,

As a follow up to my email to you yesterday, I read this morning in Chicago alone this weekend, there were 60 injured from gun shots including 10 minors, and an additional 10 dead.

https://www.foxnews.com/us/chicago-weekend-shootings

The race of the victims was not given, but if similar to previous weekends all, or almost all were Black. I find no response to this ongoing carnage by BLM. The 10 killed this weekend in Chicago are more than the original WaPo report of all unarmed Blacks killed by Police in all the US in all of 2018 in which there may have been unwarranted excessive lethal force used. I do not know what the goals of the BLM movement are, but they certainly are not to help the epidemic of Black citizens being killed by other Black citizens in these huge numbers. The tiny number of POSSIBLE Blacks killed by Police unnecessarily are tiny, minuscule, relatively none in comparison the the huge number killed by other Blacks. Where is the BLM on these victims? Why on earth would we be considering giving this organization(BLM) any sign of support?

Carl M Sutherland MD

Begin forwarded message:

From: Carl Sutherland < >

Subject: Meeting of City Council of San Mateo July 21, 2020

Date: July 19, 2020 at 8:30:06 PM PDT **To:** citycouncil@cityofsanmateo.org

Cc: Sutherland Carl M < >, Calderwood Nancy < >, Richards Gary < >, "< >" <hueyprater>, Gage

Ralph < >, Moore Larry < >, Morford Sam <.>, Collison Dale < >, Childers Ted < >,

Sirs

I wish to make my opinion known regarding matters before you.

- 1) I am absolutely opposed to defunding the Police. SYSTEMIC racism of Police against Blacks is a MYTH. If anything we need more policing, not less.
- 2) I am absolutely opposed to giving Black Lives Matter any recognition. They focus on the tiny number of Blacks that MIGHT have been shot and killed by Police unnecessarily. They ignore the huge number (around 7000/year) of Blacks shot and killed by other Blacks. In any given weekend now the total of Blacks shot and killed by other Blacks in Chicago and NYC in that one weekend alone exceeds the yearly total of all the US for all year by the Police.
- 3) I am absolutely opposed to any statement "reaffirming the City of San Mateo's commitment to racial equity" for several reasons.

- A)There are no definitions given. The last four words can easily be interpreted in several ways. Without a clear definition any such statement is meaningless.
- B) The term "racial equity" has come to be defined currently as "equal outcome" in physical possessions including money. That is impossible without savage tyranny. China and Russia executed around 100 million of their citizens last century in the name of trying to do this. This should never happen again.
- C) It is constantly being said there is systemic racism in the US. Where is it? Show me a school, private employment, government employment, public facility, military position, rights in legal cases, and any other freedoms I have that a Black person does not. Where? Differences in outcome are constantly being shouted as due to systemic racism. Where is it proven these differences are due to racism in any form particularly systemic racism? The "studies" forwarding such a position are done with statistics so fraudulent as to be pitied. I can give you many reasons for these differences that do not include racism.

Are there individual instances of racism? Of course. Everywhere. All the time. Whites against Blacks. Blacks against Whites. Anti-Asian. Anti-semitism. Show me any proof there is systemic racism anywhere here.

Carl M. Sutherland MD

Sent: Sunday, July 19, 2020 4:07 PM **To:** Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: City Council Meeting Agenda comment on #29

Dear San Mateo City Council and Clerk,

I write to express my strong opposition to the proposal that the City of San Mateo pay for a Black Lives Matter street mural and a resolution supporting Black Lives Matter.

Black Lives Matter is a Marxist/Maoist organization. It is closely allied with the pro-Chinese Communist Party Freedom Road Socialist Organization (FRSO), which is openly Maoist. is also a supporter of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The Maoist revolutionary strategy is irregular guerrilla warfare and "autonomous zones." In the US it aims to increase racial strife.

FRSO split into two groups, both of which work with and have leadership involved in the Chinese Communist Party. FRSO-FB supports China and N. Korea and has ties to terrorist groups.

FRSO-OSCL (now Freedom Road) works with Communist Party USA, Democratic Socialists of America, Solidarity, League of Revolutionaries for a New America, Socialist Party USA, Workers World Party, and the Democratic Party.

Black Lives Matter was founded by A. Garza, P. Cullors, and O. Tometi, who are activists associated with FRSO/Liberation Road. Garza worked with members of the former East German Communist Party. Cullors was mentored by a Maoist former member of the SDS, the Weathermen, and the League of Revolutionary Struggle. She supports the PLO.

Black Lives Matter is coordinated nationwide by the Movement for Black Lives. Liberation Road members work for MBL, coordinating protests.

The stated aims of BLM are: Divestment from the Police; that schools and colleges cut ties with police; universal basic income for Blacks, and direct cash payments, rent cancellation, mortgage cancellation, and cancellation of student, medical and other debt.

Their ultimate aim is the overthrow of the US government through violence.

City support should not be going to this revolutionary organization that is opposed to the United States and has never done anything at all to improve the lives of black people.

Taxpayer money put aside for a mural should instead be directed to local charities and non-political organizations.

The City should not be paying for any political murals. Would they pay for "Elect Trump," "MAGA," "God Bless America," or numerous other political slogans? No. But Communist propaganda is fine? The suggestion is outrageous.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Frances Williams, Ph.D.

From: Daniel Engovatov < >

Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 2:19 PM

To: Clerk < <u>clerk@cityofsanmateo.org</u>>; Planning < <u>planning@cityofsanmateo.org</u>>; PR Commission Mailbox < <u>PRCommissionMailbox@CityofSanMateoOrg.onmicrosoft.com</u>>; City

Mgr < citymgr@cityofsanmateo.org >

Subject: Opposition to painting murals on streets.

I would like to register my opposition to painting murals on city streets. It is unsafe for traffic, and selection of topics is bound to be controversial.

Daniel

From: Adam Nugent <>

Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 3:17 PM To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org> Subject: Support Black Lives Matter Mural

Dear Mayor Goethals and city councilmembers,

I want to give a quick note of support for the installation of a Black Lives Matter Mural. This would be a show of solidarity and a message of support for the further work we need to do to ensure our city is a welcoming and safe place for everyone - especially those who have been systematically harmed by past and, unfortunately, present government policy.

Best, Adam Nugent From: Maria Rutenburg < >

Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 1:15 PM

To: City Mgr < citymgr@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Clerk < <u>clerk@cityofsanmateo.org</u>>; Planning < <u>planning@cityofsanmateo.org</u>>

Subject: BLM mural

Honorable members of the City of San Mateo government,

The matter of the BLM mural in the downtown area is on the agenda tonight.

Just as every other member of our community, I am appalled by any form of racism and bigotry. I'm sure you are too. However, as Redwood City rightfully concluded, painting an engaging and emotionally charged mural in the middle of a public road creates a needless traffic hazard. There are two very different procedures for creating such a mural. The first would be to allow it to be painted by a private citizen as a form of their free expression. However, since the government cannot show preference for one form of political speech over any other, this would also necessitate opening that space for any and all other political messages.

The other option is to create it as a city-sponsored monument. Deciding on a city monument is a long and involved process, which requires significantly more discussion than a single hearing. The jurisprudence is clear on this.

I am sure you can see (and have seen) that this mural will elicit a significant emotional response that will further divide a community that longs for nothing more than healing, unity and respite from conflict. There are better ways to honor the Black community than with a slogan that has taken on a political meaning far beyond the literal meaning of its words. (Perhaps a mural to late Civil rights legend John Lewis?)

I urge you to reconsider this mural.

I will be on Laura Ingraham's show on Fox News discussing this issue tonight, if you would like to tune in.

Because of this, I will not be able to comment during the meeting so please accept this as my statement in opposition to the proposed BLM mural in downtown San Mateo.

Regards, Maria Rutenburg