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Subject: Public Comment Item 13 4-26-23 Rebecca Arvizu
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Rebecca Arvizu

Agoura Hills, CA [REDACTED]

April 26, 2023

Agoura Hills City Council

30001 Ladyface **Currently Impaled in the Forehead with a Flag Court**

Agoura Hills, CA 91301

RE: Public Comment in OPPOSITION to Item 13 Letter to LA County for Special Treatment of the Lost Hills Sheriff Department (“LHS”)

Dear City Council :

I urge you not to send the above referenced letter to LA County Board Supervisor Lindsey Horvath to request that the Lost Hills Sheriff Department receive special treatment and not be subject to the rotation recommendation of the Special Counsel in a report to the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission (“Report”).

The City is turning its back on the victims of the Deputy Gangs and Cliques outlined in the Report, including other deputies and their families as well as community members who strive to hold them accountable. Most of the victims of the Deputy Gangs and Cliques are people of color (“POC”). While the LHS is not called out in the Report, it is not excluded from the bad acts reviewed by the Special Counsel. In fact, the report states that Deputy Cliques and subgroups form in many stations and bureaus throughout LA County, creating toxic and hostile work environments that may not arise to the level of criminal conduct. If the staff or community members have not received negative feedback from their favorite Sheriff John (I’m dating myself), that doesn’t mean the favorites are stellar examples of civility; it could mean that they control the blue code of silence that has prevailed at the LHS since 2009 since no one was ever held accountable for the death and disappearance of Mitrice Richardson and the mishandling of her remains.

Further, it is offensive to me as a woman of color that the proposed letter to Supervisor Horvath describes LHS as a “success.” If taking action on a matter involving the victimization of POC can be defined as either racist or anti-racist, then calling the LHS a “success” is a racist statement because it ignores the suffering of Mitrice Richardson and her family, it ignores the victims of Deputy Gangs and Cliques who are primarily POC, and it even ignores the morally depraved actions of LHS deputies who shared amongst themselves and with others at a local restaurant the pictures of Kobe Bryant’s headless burnt body and the corpse of his daughter Gianna in a ravine, which caused the emotional distress of his wife Vanessa, and shocked my senses as a woman of color who can’t trust her own law enforcement officials to even protect and serve my integrity. We don’t know if their wasn’t racial intent to terrorize POC by showing gruesome pictures of dead black people, which is a common tactic of White Supremacists (think of lynchings and leaving bodies dangling in the streets).

I would like to hear more from the City Council tonight as to who specifically came up with the idea to give the LHS special treatment, and who are the deputies who deserve such favoritism from the City and why. Is it because the deputies promptly respond to calls to shut down Hispanic food truck vendors on the assumption that they don't have a permit, as I have read on NextDoor? Or is the request originating from the LHS itself, to garner support from contract cities to allow unchecked power to grow at LHS and the corruption to continue?

Instead of sending the proposed letter asking LA County for special treatment of LHS, the City should take anti-racist action and request Sheriff Luna to reopen the investigation into the death and disappearance of Mitrice Richardson and the mishandling of her remains and finally hold SOMEONE accountable for these atrocities. In addition, the City should spend more time addressing race relations in our community instead of asking for special favors for the LHS.

To date, the City has failed to address the rising White Supremacy influences in our community, as evidenced by Ladyface Mountain impaled in the forehead with a flag. Just review the comments on NextDoor when those of us who object to such violent, xenophobic, and misogynistic imagery, and the self-proclaimed "patriots" ignore our concerns with responses of "God Bless America" or "project" back to us by accusing us of being racist and "anti-American," demanding that I leave Agoura Hills if I don't like it. White Supremacists don't wear hoods and robes anymore because they don't have to; their acts have been neutralized by community standards that prevail in our City, allowing them to flaunt LA County's Land Acknowledgment while erecting monuments of terror intended to cause emotional trauma and anguish, similar to Stone Mountain in Georgia. I understand you can't take action to remove the flag from privately owned property, but you can address the underlying racism and hatred growing in our community by conducting meetings and bringing in experts who can help facilitate community healing.

Regards,

Rebecca Arvizu
Attorney at Law

Reading references:

[5-5-22 LHS Deputy Arrested Aggressive Use of Force Against Mentally Disabled Woman](#)

[6-19-22 Deputy Allegedly Shared Kobe Bryant Crash Photos Accused of Kneeling on Inmate's Head](#)

[3-19-21 Vanessa Bryant Names Deputies Accused of Sharing Photos from Kobe Crash Site](#)

[11-17-22 Deputy Who Kneeled on Inmate's Head Not Charged](#)

[8-20-20 Kamala and Mitrice](#)

8-9-20 Mitrice Richardson 10 Years On

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