



**Saturday, July 18, 2020**  
**Minutes of the Special Meeting of the City Council**  
**of the City of Palm Springs**

Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20, by Governor Newsom, this meeting was conducted by teleconference and there was no in-person public access to the meeting location.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

A Special Meeting of the Palm Springs City Council was called to order by Mayor Kors on Saturday, July 18, 2020, at 11:00 a.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** Councilmembers Grace Elena Garner, Lisa Middleton, Dennis Woods; Mayor Pro Tem Christy Holstege; and Mayor Geoff Kors

**Absent:** None.

**LISTENING SESSION ON POLICING, RACISM, DISCRIMINATION, & RELATED ISSUES:**

Mayor Kors and Councilmember Garner introduced the purpose of today's meeting, noting that the City Council will refrain from commenting or providing direction to staff as it will be focused on listening to the speakers; advised that the City Council will agendize a follow-up discussion for the City Council meeting of July 23, 2020.

The following individuals provided public testimony and their comments are included in the unofficial transcript hereby incorporated by reference (see **Exhibit A** to this set of minutes):

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|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Claire Jordan Grant | 18. Thomas Swope         |
| 2. Michael Wright      | 19. Denise Janssen Eager |
| 3. Wes Ravens          | 20. Raghda Zacharia      |
| 4. Lee Morcus          | 21. Skot J.              |
| 5. Zach Solomon        | 22. Abigail Winston      |
| 6. Carol Listenberger  | 23. Deb Sather           |
| 7. Craig Ewing         | 24. Joy Brown Meredith   |
| 8. David Weiner        | 25. Naomi Soto           |
| 9. Janel Hunt          | 26. Brendan Steindle     |
| 10. Maricruz Osorio    | 27. Juan Espinoza        |
| 11. Lex Ortega         | 28. JoAnne Crawford      |
| 12. Cris Garcia        | 29. Melissa Dolores      |
| 13. Edwin Ramoran      | 30. Ezernal Black        |
| 14. Kathy Weremiuk     | 31. James Cioffi         |
| 15. Rachelle Campbell  | 32. Elizabeth Dolores    |
| 16. Brian Farias       | 33. Clifford Reed        |
| 17. Angie Patrick      | 34. Courtnee             |

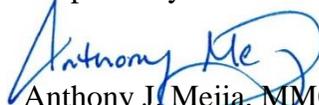
- 35. Susan Smith
- 36. Dottie Wilder
- 37. Doug Evans
- 38. Ginny Foat
- 39. Renee Brown
- 40. Stephen Benson
- 41. Dennis Moore
- 42. Shawnda Faveau
- 43. Dieter Crawford
- 44. David Christian

- 45. Karena
- 46. Carol Davis
- 47. Jilska Chandrasena
- 48. Oron Jackson
- 49. Corrine Griswold
- 50. Karen Joy
- 51. Andrea Romero
- 52. Janel Hunt
- 53. Elizabeth Dolores

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The City Council adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Anthony J. Mejia, MMC  
City Clerk

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL: 09/10/2020

**EXHIBIT A**  
**TO THE MINUTES OF THE PALM SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL**  
**MEETING OF JULY 18, 2020**

**PALM SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**LISTENING SESSION**  
**JULY 18, 2020, 11:00 A.M.**  
**UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT**

**CLAIRE JORDAN GRANT:** GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE. SO NICE TO SEE YOU IN THIS WAY. THIS UNUSUAL WAY. I'M SPEAKING THIS MORNING AND I KNOW WE HAVE HAD A LOT OF CONVERSATION ABOUT THIS BUT I WOULD LIKE TO ADD A PERSPECTIVE THAT I DON'T THINK I HAVE HEARD BEFORE. IT IS VERY EASY TO REMOVE THE ACTIONS OF THE PAST FROM THE PAST AND TO APPLY TODAY'S STANDARDS TO THAT AND TO THINK THAT WELL, IT WAS OKAY IN THE PAST. WELL, IT'S NOT OKAY TODAY. IN THE CASE OF SECTION 14 AND THE WAY THE PURGING OF THE MINORITY POPULATION OF PALM SPRINGS WAS HANDLED IN THIS ERA WAS HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL. IT WAS DEBATED ENDLESSLY. IT WAS TALKED ABOUT FOR DECADES AFTER IT OCCURRED. WE CAN CONVERSE MORE ABOUT THAT BUT I THINK THAT IS A STORY FOR ANOTHER DAY. ON THAT PARTICULAR NOTE, I REMEMBER ONE PERSON, I'M GOING TO SAY IT WAS MARY, BUT I CAN'T SAY THAT FOR SURE. I THINK IT WAS MARY MARGARET, I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK TO SEE WHO SAID THIS. SO, SHE SAID THAT WHILE SHE AGREED THAT SECTION 14 NEEDED TO BE CLEANED UP THAT THE WAY THAT SOB DID IT, AND SHE DID NOT USE THOSE INITIALS AND EVERYONE KNEW SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT FRANK BOGERT, BECAUSE HIS NAME HAD BEEN BROUGHT UP MANY TIMES IN THIS CONVERSATION, SHE SAID THE WAY THAT SOB DID IT WAS REMINISCENT OF SOMETHING THAT WE WOULD HAVE FOUND IN THE DEEP SOUTH AND THAT ENDED THE CONVERSATION. THERE WAS NO MORE DEBATE ABOUT IT AFTER THAT BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ONE WHO DISAGREED WITH THAT. AND IT STUCK WITH ME FOR MANY YEARS AFTER THAT BECAUSE I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WAS SO STRANGE THAT A PROGRESSIVE LITTLE TOWN LIKE OURS WOULD HAVE THIS DARK HISTORY THAT INCLUDED SUCH A DEEPLY RACIST ACT THAT CAN BE COMPARED TO SOMETHING THAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IN ALABAMA OR GEORGIA. I HAVE TO SAY, WHEN I MOVED BACK HERE IN THE EARLY 2000S AND I DROVE BY CITY HALL AND I SAW THE STATUE OF FRANK BOGERT, THE VERY FIRST THING THAT CAME TO MY MIND WAS OH, WOW! THE OLD SOB FOOLED THEM, HE WON. AND SO I JUST WANT TO SUGGEST THAT PERHAPS OLD RACISTS SHOULDN'T GET THE LAST WORD. EVEN IN THE CONTEXT OF HIS OWN TIME, THAT ACT WAS CONDEMNED BY PEOPLE WITH A CONSCIENCE. THANK YOU.

**MICHAEL WRIGHT:** THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HAVING THIS MEETING. I APPRECIATE THE TIME. I WANTED TO PREFACE THIS BY SAYING THAT I HAVE INCREDIBLE RESPECT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT. I THINK THAT THEY HAVE AN INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT JOB TO DO. SO MUCH SO THAT I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT PUBLIC SAFETY IS ACTUALLY A MULTIFACETED AND VERY COMPLEX ISSUE. SO THERE ARE THREE COMPLETELY DISTINCT FUNCTIONS THAT POLICE OFFICERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR, WHICH INCLUDES PUBLIC SAFETY, LIKE WHAT YOU WOULD SEE FROM, YOU KNOW, IF YOU GET A SPEEDING TICKET TO PREVENT PEOPLE FROM SPEEDING ON THE ROADS, FROM PREVENTING DRUNK DRIVING (ALTHOUGH THERE ARE MENTAL HEALTH COMPONENTS TO THIS) AND LAST, VIOLENCE RESPONSE. THESE ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FUNCTIONS. WE ARE EXPECTING THESE PEOPLE WHO HAVE WEEKS WORTH OF TRAINING TO FILL ALL THESE FUNCTIONS AND SIMPLY PUT, IT IS JUST NOT ENOUGH. WE ARE ASKING TOO MUCH OF THESE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS. WE NEED TO LOOK AT THIS HOLISTICALLY AND THINK

ABOUT HOW WE CAN DEFUND THE POLICE, PEOPLE MISINTERPRET WHAT THAT MEANS. WHAT THAT REALLY MEANS IS TO ACTUALLY DIVEST SOME OF THESE RESOURCES INTO OTHER REALLY CRITICAL PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURES AND WE NEED TO THINK ABOUT THIS AS A BIG PICTURE. I ALSO JUST WANTED TO SHARE A QUICK ANECDOTE ABOUT AN EXPERIENCE THAT WE HAD. SOMEONE MENTIONED JUST RECENTLY THAT NO ONE NOTICED THAT PALM SPRINGS HAS A LITTLE BIT OF A RACIST UNDERTONE. ABOUT FOUR WEEKS AGO, FOUR PEOPLE WHO DISAGREE WITH US POLITICALLY WERE UPSET ABOUT US SPEAKING OUT ON BEHALF OF BLACK LIVES MATTER. THEY SHOWED UP AT OUR DOOR AND THEY TOLD US TO CALL OFF A HIT THAT WE SUPPOSEDLY HAD PUT OUT ON ONE OF THEM. THEY SAID THAT WE SENT FOUR BLACK MEN OVER TO ONE OF THEIR HOMES TO INTIMIDATE THEM. THEY SAID, THEY CAUGHT THIS ON VIDEO AND THAT THEY FILED A POLICE REPORT. WE WERE INCREDIBLY SHAKEN. THIS HAD INCREDIBLE RACIST UNDERTONES. WE CALLED THE POLICE THE NEXT DAY AND THEY SAID THAT THERE WAS NO POLICE REPORT. THAT THIS WAS COMPLETELY MADE UP. WE THEN ASKED IF THEY WOULD PLEASE INVESTIGATE THIS AS WE HAVE VIDEO FOOTAGE TO PROVE THAT THEY WERE AT OUR HOUSE. THE POLICE SAID, THEY DO NOT RESPOND TO THINGS THAT ARE NOT AN ACTIVE CRISIS. THAT TYPE OF RESPONSE DID NOT MAKE US FEEL SAFE. WE NEED PUBLIC SAFETY. INVESTIGATE WHEN SOMETHING LIKE THIS OCCURS. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

**WES RAVENS:** HEY, GUYS. I'M WES RAVENS. EVERYONE KNOWS I'M A PART OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS AND I WOULD REALLY LIKE TO THANK THE HOST FOR HAVING THIS IMPORTANT LISTENING SESSION. I ACTUALLY POSTED ON MY FACEBOOK, I'M GLAD YOU'RE LISTENING BUT I HOPE THAT YOU ACTUALLY HEAR WHAT WE ARE SAYING. I HAVE BEEN A LONGTIME RESIDENT BUT I'M NOT HOW CAN I SAY IT? A LOCAL, BORN AND RAISED HERE. HOWEVER, BEING HERE FOR SO LONG, I HAVE NOTICED AND I DO KNOW THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN ISSUE OF RACISM AND TO NOT SAY THAT THERE ISN'T WOULD BE A LIE. WE'RE JUST LIKE ANY OTHER CITY. FOR SOME REASON, THE CITY WON'T ACKNOWLEDGE OR ACCEPT THAT IT HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST AND IT HAPPENS STILL NOW. I AM ACCEPTED HERE BECAUSE I'M A GAY BLACK MAN AND I'M NOT A THREAT. BUT I DO KNOW THAT STRAIGHT BLACK MEN AND STRAIGHT BLACK WOMEN DO NOT FEEL COMFORTABLE HERE AND THEY DO NOT FEEL ACCEPTED HERE. THEY DON'T FEEL WELCOMED HERE. THEY ALWAYS TELL ME, WHEN THEY VISIT, IT WAS A NICE PLACE BUT THERE IS NOT ENOUGH BLACK PEOPLE OR I DON'T FEEL WELCOME. YOU CAN SEE THE DIFFERENCES HOW THEY ARE TREATED VERSUS THE WAY I AM TREATED. AS FAR AS THE BOGERT STATUE AND AS FAR AS OTHER THINGS GO, FOR ME, AS A BLACK MAN, I HAVE TO SEE WHAT MY PRIORITY IS AS FAR AS THIS CITY. FOR ME, A STATUE IS NOT AS IMPORTANT AS ECONOMIC EQUALITY OR FOR THIS CITY TO REALLY FIRSTHAND APOLOGIZE FOR THE ACTIONS OF THAT MAN. THE STATUE, KEEP IT UP. ALSO, PUT A PLAQUE BESIDE IT OF EXACTLY WHAT HE DID, EXACTLY WHAT THE CALIFORNIA STATE'S ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID AT THE TIME, AS IT WAS A HOLOCAUST. ALSO, HONOR AN AFRICAN AMERICAN MAN THAT HELPED BUILD NOT ONLY THE CITY BUT THE COACHELLA VALLEY, LAWRENCE CROSSLEY, BY GIVING HIM HIS FULL NAME ON THE STREET. THIS IS THE ONLY PERSON IN THIS CITY THAT DOES NOT HAVE A SCHOOL NAMED AFTER HIM. IT HAS BEEN A DEBATE FOR YEARS. FOR SOME REASON, THIS CITY WILL NOT ACKNOWLEDGE AND WILL NOT PUT THAT MAN'S FULL NAME ON A STREET SIGN. THAT TO ME WOULD BE A BIG FIRST STEP THAN TAKING A STATUE DOWN. AT THE SAME TIME, LET'S LOOK AT THE DISPARITIES THAT HAPPENED WITHIN THIS COMMUNITY. THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY AND PEOPLE WITHIN THIS COMMUNITY, THEY HAVE A COUPLE OF

OPTIONS HERE. IT IS A TWO CLASS SOCIETY; THOSE WHO SERVE AND THOSE WHO ARE BEING SERVED. EITHER ITS HOSPITALITY OR YOU HAVE TO GO INTO A NURSING SCHOOL. THERE ARE NO OTHER JOBS HERE EXCEPT FOR HOSPITALITY. I BELIEVE THAT IF YOU HAVE MORE ACCESS TO MORE TYPES OF JOBS, THIS IS A DESERT THAT HAS REALLY NICE WEATHER. THERE SHOULD BE ACCESS TO MORE JOBS. THERE SHOULD BE MORE TYPES OF CORPORATIONS HERE. THERE SHOULD BE MORE ACCESS TO BETTER EDUCATION. THE CITIZENS OF DESERT HIGHLAND GATEWAY COMMUNITY SHOULDN'T HAVE TO ASK COUNCIL TO GET A BUS LINE FOR THEIR KIDS TO GET TO SCHOOL. THERE SHOULDN'T HAVE TO BE A MULTIMILLION DOLLAR PROJECT RIGHT ACROSS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND WE SHOULD ALL HAVE ACCESS TO THIS. YOU BUILT A FENCE AND HAVE TO GO ALL THE WAY AROUND, AT LEAST THREE QUARTERS OF A MILE AROUND, JUST TO ACCESS THAT PROPERTY. ALL THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO THAT. THERE IS NOT EQUAL HOUSING IN THE CITY FOR ALL RESIDENTS HERE. WHEN I WAS ON THE COMMISSION, IT WAS REPORTED THAT 80% OF OUR KIDS QUALIFY FOR A FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH. THAT RIGHT THERE IS AN ISSUE. THAT MEANS THAT SOMETHING IS GOING ON HERE. I BELIEVE THAT THE CITY NEEDS TO LOOK AND ACCEPT THAT THERE IS AN ISSUE WITH RACISM. THERE IS AN ISSUE WITH SEXISM HERE. WE ARE JUST LIKE ANY OTHER CITY AND UNTIL WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT AND UNTIL WE CAN ACCEPT THE PAIN THAT WAS CAUSED HERE AND LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE AND MOVE FORWARD, WE CAN'T MOVE FORWARD. AND THIS CITY REALLY IS A BEAUTIFUL CITY AND I LOVE THIS CITY AND I WOULD NOT BE HERE IF I DIDN'T. HOWEVER, I DO HAVE TO SAY, IF YOU ARE NOT A GAY WHITE MAN, AFTER ABOUT THREE DAYS, YOU DON'T FEEL WELCOME HERE. THAT'S ALL I HAVE TO SAY.

**LEE MORCUS:** COUNCIL, THANK YOU FOR HOSTING THIS CALL. I SEE MANY PEOPLE HERE WHO I HAVE KNOWN FOR DECADES AND WHO I HAVE COME TO LOVE AND RESPECT. I APPRECIATE ALL OF YOU. WE ARE ALL CUSTODIANS OF OUR COMMUNITY. I'M FROM THE MINDSET THAT WE ARE ONE RACE, HUMAN. ONE PEOPLE, AMERICAN, ONE PEOPLE, COACHELLA VALLEY CITIZENS. ONE PEOPLE, PALM SPRINGS RESIDENTS. I HATE THE DIALOGUE WHERE I HEAR A US VERSUS THEM. WE'VE ALL BEEN REFLECTING DURING THIS PERIOD OF TIME, AT LEAST, I HOPE WE ALL HAVE. I CAN CERTAINLY SAY THAT I HAVE BEEN ON A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LEVELS IN A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT WAYS. I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO CHIEF REYES AND HIS POLICE FORCE. POLICE FORCE TO ME IS A POSITIVE TERM BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN A POSITIVE FORCE IN THIS COMMUNITY. THEY HAVE SERVED US WELL FOR DECADES. IT IS AN HONOR TO HAVE YOU IN HERE. YOU ARE TRUE AMBASSADORS FOR THE BEST OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS. I HAVE COME TO KNOW MANY OF THE PEOPLE ON THE STAFF PERSONALLY OVER THE YEARS. YOU HAVE SAVED MY BUTT MANY TIMES AND YOU DESERVE A LOT OF CREDIT FOR THE GOOD WORK YOU DO. AND I THANK YOU FOR IT. FOLKS, THE PAST, IT'S THERE. YOU CAN'T CHANGE THE PAST. FRANKLY GOVERNMENT, AS MUCH AS I RESPECT ALL OF YOU WHO SERVE THIS COMMUNITY, YOU CAN'T LEGISLATE CHANGE. IF YOU COULD, THERE WOULD BE NO CRIME. THERE WOULD BE NO DISCRIMINATION. THERE WOULD BE NO HATE. WE WOULD ALL LIVE IN A UTOPIAN SOCIETY, WHERE EVERYBODY IS HAPPY. THAT IS NOT THE REALITY OF PEOPLE. WHAT WE CAN DO IS OPEN THE CONVERSATION SO PEOPLE START DOING THEIR OWN EXAMINATION AND USE THEIR OWN WORDS IN THEIR OWN MINDS AND THEIR OWN SOULS. THAT IS THE ONE THING I WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE US ALL, FROM MY PERSPECTIVE, TO TAKE AWAY FROM THIS CONVERSATION TODAY. WE ARE IN IT TOGETHER. IT IS FOREIGN TO ME TO TALK ABOUT DIVISION WHEN THE ANSWER LIES IN LOVING UNITY. OKAY? CRIME IS GOING UP. THIS ISN'T THE

TIME TO GET TOUGH ON POLICE AND SOFT ON CRIME. MY BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN VANDALIZED MORE THAN ONCE. THESE HOMELESS PEOPLE, AS MUCH AS I FEEL FOR THEIR FIGHT AND I SALUTE SUPERVISOR PEREZ FOR WHAT HE IS TRYING TO DO TO GIVE PEOPLE HOUSING AND A SYSTEM AND A WAY TO GET THROUGH IT AND OUT OF IT, I THINK THAT IS PART OF THE SOLUTION. BUT GOING SOFT ON CRIME? THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR IT. CRIME IS GOING UP AND IT ALWAYS DOES WHEN THERE'S ECONOMIC TROUBLE. A CRIME AGAINST ANY OF US, WHETHER IT IS RACIAL, PROPERTY, GENDER PREFERENCE, RELIGION, WHATEVER IT IS, IT IS A CRIME AGAINST EVERY ONE OF US. WE ALL DESERVE TO BE SAFE. AND I'VE HEARD SOME PEOPLE SAY, WELL, A CRIME AGAINST YOUR BUILDING IS NO BIG DEAL, ITS INSURED, IT'S THIS, IT'S THAT. IS NOT THE SAME. KAISER EMPLOYES 100 PEOPLE THAT AREN'T WORKING RIGHT NOW. IT'S A CRIME AGAINST MY STAFF. ITS A CRIME AGAINST THE PEOPLE WE SERVE. IS A CRIME AGAINST OUR COMMUNITY. IT'S A CRIME AGAINST OUR TOURISTS. IT'S A CRIME AGAINST EVERYBODY ON THIS CALL. GRANTED SOME CRIMES MAY BE MORE SEVERE THAN OTHERS BUT CRIME IS CRIME AND CRIME KNOWS NO RACE, CREED, PREFERENCE, COLOR, GENDER, ETC. WE NEED TO BE TOUGH ON CRIME, STAND AGAINST IT, LOOK AT THE CAUSES, DO WHAT WE CAN TO ELIMINATE THOSE AS WELL. BUT HONESTLY, WE LIKE TO THINK WE CAN FIX EVERYTHING. AND WE SHOULD TRY. BUT THERE IS WORK TO DO HERE. AND IT STARTS WITH SAFE STREETS. GIVE ME MORE TIME, I WILL BURN OUT THIS ENTIRE TWO HOUR PERIOD. GEOFF, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SMILE, YOUR WARMTH. I APPRECIATE YOU VERY MUCH. I APPRECIATE YOUR COUNCIL. I APPRECIATE BEING A PART OF THIS CITY. BEEN A LONG TIME. WE ALL HAVE WORK TO DO TO GET DONE TOGETHER. I DO NOT WANT CONVERSATIONS TO FOCUS ON DIFFERENCE IN DIVISION. THEY ARE UNHEALTHY AND UNPRODUCTIVE. THANK YOU FOR LISTENING.

**ZACH SOLOMON:** HELLO, EVERYONE. GOOD MORNING. THANK YOU FOR DOING THIS. IT IS REALLY GREAT TO SEE SO MANY PEOPLE FROM THE COMMUNITY ON THIS MORNING. IT IS PROBABLY MORE NERVE-RACKING TO LOOK AT ALL OF YOU THAN TO HAVE A CITY COUNCIL CALL BUT NONETHELESS, IT IS GOOD TO BE HERE AND TALK TO Y'ALL TODAY. AND I GUESS I WANT TO JUST SAY A FEW THINGS THAT YOU KNOW, FIRST OFF, I THINK IT IS REALLY IMPORTANT THAT RIGHT NOW, ONE OF THE THINGS I'M FEELING IN THIS CONVERSATION IS THAT I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT WE ARE FOCUSING ON POLICING AND THAT THIS CONVERSATION DOESN'T GET OUT OF HAND WITH OTHER ISSUES THAT MIGHT GET IN THE WAY OF POLICING. CITY COUNCIL DID A LOT OF WORK TO MAKE THIS EVENT HAPPEN. WITH A REALLY SPECIFIC AGENDA ABOUT RACISM AND POLICING AND THE RELATIONSHIP TO POLICING OUT HERE IN THE VALLEY. THERE ARE A LOT OF OTHER TOPICS THAT WE CAN GO INTO AND WILL, WITH CITY COUNCIL. BUT THIS IS A REALLY SPECIFIC PLACE AND I JUST DON'T WANT IT TO GET KIND OF OUT OF HAND AS FAR AS TOPICS GO. THE PURPOSE OF THIS CONVERSATION IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE WE HAVE PEOPLE WHO, YOU KNOW, OBVIOUSLY, I'M WHITE. I'M A MALE. I HAVE NOT HAD ANY FIRSTHAND BRUTALITY EXPERIENCES WITH POLICE HERE. I DO HAVE ONE STORY WHICH IS NOT ABOUT RACIAL INJUSTICE PERSONALLY THAT I'VE EXPERIENCED. BUT IT IS ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH AND THE NATURE OF HOW POLICE REALLY MIGHT NOT BE WELL-EQUIPPED TO HANDLE ISSUES OF MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS AND HOW THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY OF MAYBE LOOKING TO FUND SOCIAL WORK MORE IN PALM SPRINGS. SO, A FEW YEARS AGO, I WAS GOING THROUGH SOME ISSUES WITH DEPRESSION AND UNDIAGNOSED BIPOLAR DISORDER. AND HAD THE POLICE COME TO VISIT ME WHO HAD BEEN TICKED OFF THAT I WAS A RISK OF HARM TO MYSELF. A PRETTY PERSONAL STORY. SO, WHEN THE POLICE OFFICER

ARRIVED, I WAS FORTUNATE THAT HE HAD HAD SOME EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD WITH THESE KINDS OF ISSUES. BUT THE POLICE OFFICER DID NOT REALLY HAVE THE TOOLS TO BE ABLE TO HANDLE THE SITUATION. AND I FELT THE PRESENCE THAT THERE IS AN OBLIGATION, A LEGAL OBLIGATION OF WHAT HE HAD TO DO IN ORDER TO NOT GET IN TROUBLE. RIGHT? SO, HE WAS TALKING TO ME ABOUT CHRISTIANITY AND LIKE THINGS THAT WERE TOTALLY NOT APPROPRIATE. THIS WAS COMPLETELY PATRONIZING. NOW, I THINK HE WAS A WELL-INTENTIONED POLICE OFFICER, DOING HIS JOB. I ALSO THINK HE IS NOT TRAINED IN MENTAL HEALTH; HE IS NOT TRAINED IN MANY ASPECTS. I WAS LIKE PLEASE DON'T SEND ME TO A FACILITY AGAINST MY WILL. HE ABSOLUTELY SENT ME TO A FACILITY AGAINST MY WILL. COST ME THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS THAT I WAS NOT READY TO SPEND AT THAT TIME. YOU KNOW? SO, IN THIS SITUATION I'M SURE THIS POLICE OFFICER HAD GOOD INTENTIONS AND HE WAS NOT CRUEL OR MEAN BUT HE WAS NOT PARTICULARLY WELL TRAINED. I KNOW PEOPLE WHO ARE WELL TRAINED IN SOCIAL WORK, IN THESE TYPES OF SITUATIONS. AND IF OUR CITY WANTED TO TRY TO BE CREATIVE, TO FIND DIFFERENT WAYS OF HANDLING THESE SITUATIONS. THERE ISN'T GOING TO BE A MANDATE FROM THE COUNTRY OF HOW TO CHANGE OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH POLICING. THIS IS SOMETHING THAT EACH CITY AND STATE IS GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE THE LEAD ON, AND HOW TO BE CREATIVE ABOUT. SO, IF THIS COUNTRY IS LOOKING TO REEVALUATE WHAT ARE RELATIONSHIP TO POLICING IS. IT WILL BE THIS CITY IN PARTICULAR THAT FINDS OUT WHAT THAT SITUATION IS. SO, SITUATIONS LIKE DEFUNDING THE POLICE A PLACE LIKE SEATTLE OR MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, THAT THEY HAVE GONE THROUGH, WE ARE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO HAVE A CITY COUNCIL WITH OUR MAYOR ON IT. IF OUR CITY COUNCIL AGREES ON SOMETHING, THAT MEANS OUR MAYOR AGREES ON SOMETHING. WE DON'T HAVE TO MAKE A PLEDGE; THEY CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN. BUT SIMULTANEOUSLY, OUR CITY IS ALSO OUR CITY. SO, WE HAVE THE PEOPLE HERE WHO ARE READY FOR THE CONVERSATION, WHO ARE READY FOR SOMETHING. BUT THEY MAY NOT BE READY TO DEMAND THE SAME THING THAT SOMETHING LIKE SEATTLE IS. AND, YOU KNOW, I WANT REALLY PROGRESSIVE AND BOLD CHANGES TO THE RELATIONSHIP TO POLICING ACROSS AMERICA. I WANT THE CITY THAT I LIVE IN, PALM SPRINGS, THAT I WAS BORN IN AND BEEN HERE FOR MOST MY LIFE TO BE A PART OF THAT CHANGE. I WANT TO SEE CREATIVE LEADERSHIP FROM CITY COUNCIL. I WANT TO SEE COLLECTIVE DISAPPOINTMENT AND BEING COLLECTIVELY UPSET AND DISAPPOINTED AND ENRAGED. WITH KINDNESS AND OPENNESS THAT I'M SEEING ACROSS THE COUNTRY HERE IN PALM SPRINGS, FRANKLY, IT FEELS STIFLED. YOU KNOW, WE TALKED ABOUT A HISTORY OF SEGREGATION IN PALM SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL. MY SISTER WENT TO PALM SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL AT AN AWFUL TIME OF SEGREGATION IN PALM SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL. THERE IS A HISTORY OF GENTRIFICATION AND PLACEMENT OF DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES AND DIFFERENT PLACES OF THIS CITY. THIS AFFECTS A COUPLE OF STUDENTS AS WELL AND I JUST HOPE THAT YOU ALL TAKE A REALLY HARD LOOK AT IT. SO THAT'S IT. THANKS.

**CAROL LISTENBERGER:** HI. I WAS VERY STRUCK BY WHAT ZACH JUST SAID BECAUSE I AM A RETIREE WHO MOVED HERE AFTER BECOMING RETIRED SO I HAVE NOT BEEN HERE TOO LONG, ABOUT FIVE YEARS. I HAVE NOT HAD ANY PERSONAL INTERACTION WITH POLICE, THANK GOODNESS. I HAVEN'T HAD ANY REASON TOO. NO VICTIM OF CRIME OR ANYTHING. BUT WHAT I HAVE NOTICED AS AN OBSERVER. I LIKE TO GO OUT, MEET PEOPLE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. I DON'T DO THAT NOW BECAUSE OF COVID BUT BEFORE THAT, I SPENT A LOT OF TIME AT THE LIBRARY AND I SPENT A LOT OF TIME AT PARKS. I LIKE TO GO DOWNTOWN; I LIKE TO SIT AT COFFEE

SHOPS. SO, I HAVE A LOT OF TIME TO OBSERVE PEOPLE. AND WHAT I HAVE NOTICED THAT IS DIFFERENT ABOUT PALM SPRINGS THAT I WASN'T USED TO FROM WHERE I CAME FROM WAS THAT WE DO HAVE A LARGE HOMELESS POPULATION AND POLICE SHOULDN'T BE THE ONE TO HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF TROUBLES THAT ARISE BECAUSE OF THAT. I HAVE BEEN IN PLACES WHERE I HAVE SEEN STEALING GOING ON AND I SAID SOMETHING TO ONE OF THE EMPLOYEES AND THEY SAID, YES, THIS IS ONE OF THOSE THINGS THAT HAPPENS. AND YOU KNOW WHAT, WE JUST HAVE TO LET IT GO. AND I THOUGHT, THAT IS A SHAME. BECAUSE THAT IS SOMETHING WE SHOULDN'T HAVE TO PUT UP WITH AS A BUSINESS EXPENSE. AND THEN I HAVE SEEN INSTANCES OF DISRUPTIONS WHERE PEOPLE WERE IN OBVIOUS DISTRESS HAD AN ISSUE AND POLICE CAME AS BUT THEY WERE TRYING TO ACT AS THE SOCIAL WORKER. YOU COULD SEE THAT THE POLICE WERE UNCOMFORTABLE, VERY STIFF AND INFORMAL LOOKING. THEY DIDN'T QUITE HAVE THE CARING ATTITUDE YOU WOULD EXPECT FROM SOMEONE WHO TRIED TO CALM DOWN A PERSON WHO IS IN A MENTAL DISTRESS. AND SO, I FELT BAD FOR THE PERSON NEEDING HELP. I FELT BAD FOR THE PEOPLE TRYING TO GIVE HELP. I NOTICED THIS SO MANY TIMES JUST BEING OUT IN THE COMMUNITY, FOR INSTANCE AT SUNRISE PARK. YOU KNOW, THERE WAS THIS HUGE PROBLEM WHERE POLICE HAD TO MOVE IN AND SOLVE IT BUT IT SEEMS LIKE SUCH A WASTE OF POLICING EXPERTISE WHEN THERE SHOULD BE SOME OTHER KIND OF FORCE OR CORP OR WHATEVER YOU WANT TO CALL IT THAT CAN HANDLE THESE SITUATIONS BETTER BECAUSE POLICE ARE TRAINED TO DO LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THIS REALLY ISN'T A LAW ENFORCEMENT PROBLEM. SO, I JUST WANTED TO STAND UP AS AN OBSERVER. I CAN'T SPEAK TO WHETHER I'VE NOTICED ANY RACIAL TIMES WITH THIS BECAUSE I'VE SEEN IT HAPPEN WITH BLACK AND WHITE PEOPLE. LIKE I SAID, I DON'T HAVE A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE. BUT AS AN OBSERVER, I HAVE FELT BAD ABOUT THAT SITUATION. THAT'S ALL I HAVE. THANK YOU.

**CRAIG EWING:** HELLO, MY NAME IS CRAIG EWING. SOME OF YOU KNOW ME AS THE FORMER PLANNING DIRECTOR FOR THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS. I ALSO SERVED ON THE BOARD OF THE DESERT WATER AGENCY FOR SEVERAL YEARS. I WILL TELL A DIFFERENT PART OF MYSELF, I'M A NATIVE CALIFORNIAN, GERMAN, WHITE KID WHO BENEFITED IMMENSELY FROM THE SYSTEM IN PLACE OVER THE LAST 60 PLUS YEARS HERE IN CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES. AND IT DIDN'T OCCUR TO ME OVER THE YEARS THAT THIS WASN'T EVERYONE'S BIRTHRIGHT, TO BE ABLE TO WALK OUT ON THE STREET AS A KID, TO GO WANDERING WITH MY BROTHER AND A SACK LUNCH AND MOM'S INSTRUCTIONS WERE TO JUST BE HOME BY 4:00. I NOW HAVE LEARNED HOW THAT IS NOT AN EXPERIENCE SHARED BY MANY, MANY PEOPLE. THAT REVELATION TOOK A LONG TIME TO HAPPEN. BUT FOR ME, IT IS SOMETHING OF A SPIRITUAL LEVEL. AND SO AS A CHAPLIN, I WENT LOOKING AND FOUND THE JONES CENTER FOR RACIAL HEALING, WHICH IS LOCATED IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA. AND PARTICIPATED IN A NUMBER OF CONVERSATIONS WITH PRIESTS. SO, THE JONES CENTER FOR RACIAL HEALING PROVIDED A TREMENDOUS ALTERNATIVE VIEW OF THE WORLD FOR ME. AND IT REALLY CHANGED MY VIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT. AND SO, I PROVIDE THAT BACKGROUND TO THE COMMENT THAT I PROVIDED TO THE COUNCIL AND I WILL READ IT TO YOU, IT'S NOT THAT LONG. I BELIEVE THAT WE NEED TO DEVELOP A NEW CITY MODEL FOR SAFETY SERVICES. INCLUDING POLICE, MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, HOMELESS SERVICES, NGO, AND NEIGHBORHOODS. THERE SHOULD BE NO DISCUSSION OF DEFUNDING THE POLICE BUT OF CONSTRUCTING A NEW FRAMEWORK OF HOW THE COMMUNITY IDENTIFIES THOSE INTERESTS AND PROVIDES APPROPRIATE SERVICES. THIS FRAMEWORK WILL NEED INFORMATION FROM POLICE, COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH, AND HOMELESS

SERVICES AGENCIES, FOR PROFIT GROUPS, AS WELL AS NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERS ON HOW WE CAN CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER IF WE CAN IDENTIFY WITH FAMILIES, FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, AND LOCAL GROUPS THOSE AT RISK OF FALLING INTO AGGRESSIVE OR VIOLENT BEHAVIOR BEFORE IT HAPPENS AND ADDRESS THE RISK CONDITION, WE CAN MOVE AWAY FROM IT AFTER THE FACT AND RESPOND. PRESENTLY, THE POLICE ARE THE SOLE RESPONDERS ADDRESSING THE BAD BEHAVIOR AND NOT THE UNDERLYING CONDITIONS. A NEW MODEL OF SAFETY SERVICES THAT PRIORITIZES THE TREATMENT OF LIFE NEEDS OVER PUNISHMENT OF CONSEQUENT BEHAVIOR. I WOULD LIKE TO HELP AND THOSE ARE MY COMMENTS. THANK YOU.

**DAVID WEINER:** HI, EVERYONE. FIRST, I WANT TO THANK THE CITY COUNCIL FOR PUTTING THIS TOGETHER. I THINK IT IS AMAZING THAT WE ARE HAVING THIS DISCUSSION. IN ANY EVENT, I WANT TO TALK ABOUT A COUPLE OF THINGS. FIRST, LIKE CRAIG AND CAROL AND ZACH ALL TOUCHED ON, I THINK WE GET CAUGHT UP IN THIS TERM, DEFUNDING THE POLICE. IN ANY EVENT, I THINK WE ARE GETTING CAUGHT UP ON THIS TERM, DEFUNDED THE POLICE. WHAT WE'RE REALLY TALKING ABOUT IS MAYBE PRIORITIZING WHAT POLICE ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE. WE ALL ARE SPEAKING TO THE FACT THAT POLICE RIGHT NOW ARE SERVING AS MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND PROVIDING SERVICES THAT REALLY DON'T INVOLVE THEM. IN ANY EVENT, THAT WAS THE MAIN POINT I WANTED TO MAKE. I THINK WE ARE JUST TALKING ABOUT LOOKING AT WHAT SERVICES THE POLICE ARE DOING AND SHOULD BE DOING AND SHOULD THEY BE DONE BY OTHER AGENCIES OR OTHER PROFESSIONALS? MAYBE IF WE TAKE THOSE RESPOSIBILITIES OUT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, WE DON'T NEED CLOSE TO 100 SWORN OFFICERS. THE OTHER THING I WANT TO TOUCH ON A LITTLE BIT IS THE STATUE. BECAUSE I WAS THE GUY THAT, FOR WHATEVER REASON, STARTED THAT PETITION BECAUSE I'LL BE VERY HONEST, I JUST DIDN'T THINK GIVEN THE HISTORY OF SECTION 14 AND HOW THE PAST MAYOR WAS INVOLVED IN SOME OF THOSE EVICTIONS, INCLUDING SIGNING EVICTION NOTICES AS A CONSERVATOR FOR TRIBAL MEMBERS THAT OWN THE LAND, IT DIDN'T SEEM RIGHT THAT WE SHOULD BE CELEBRATING HIM IN FRONT OF CITY HALL IF WE WANT CITY HALL TO FEEL LIKE A WELCOMING PLACE FOR ALL OF OUR RESIDENTS. SO, I HAVE KIND OF BEEN ATTACKED FROM ALL ANGLES, THE LEFT AND THE RIGHT ON THIS. BUT REALLY, MY POINT IS MAYBE CITY HALL ISN'T THE BEST PLACE FOR THAT STATUTE TO BE. IT SHOULD BE IN A MUSEUM WITH A DISCUSSION OF WHAT HAPPENED, A DISCUSSION OF THE HISTORY AND IT IS NOT ABOUT ERASING THE HISTORY. IT IS JUST ABOUT PUTTING THE HISTORY IN THE PLACE WHERE IT BELONGS. I DON'T THINK THAT IS IN FRONT OF PALM SPRINGS CITY HALL. I HAVE GOTTEN A LOT OF SUPPORT AS WELL AND JUST TRYING TO DO THIS AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY. THIS IS MY HOME. I HAVE LIVED HERE FOR 16 YEARS. THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME SPEAK.

**JANEL HUNT:** GOOD MORNING. AS I UNDERSTAND THIS MEETING IS NOT TO JUST FOCUS ON POLICING BUT RACE RELATIONS, DISCRIMINATION. THAT INCLUDES RELATED ISSUES. WITH THAT BEING SAID, THE FIRST THING I WOULD LIKE TO TALK ABOUT IS THE STATUE OF FRANK BOGERT AND SECTION 14. MY GRANNY CAME TO THE RESERVATION IN 1946. ON THAT RESERVATION, THEY WERE NOT ALLOWED OR AFFORDED THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES AS OTHER PEOPLE. MY GRANNY WOULD TALK ABOUT HOW THEIR HOUSES WERE BULLDOZED, THEY HAD TO GRAB WHAT THEY COULD. I HAVE A COUSIN TO THIS DAY WHO WAS NOT ABLE TO RETRIEVE ALL OF HER DOLLS AND SHE STILL COLLECTS DOLLS TO THIS DAY. I DID NOT UNDERSTAND

THE IMPORTANCE OF THAT DOLL COLLECTION TO HER UNTIL I ACTUALLY SPOKE TO HER. SO, WHEN TALKING ABOUT THIS, THE STATUE, WE HAVE TO REMEMBER, THERE ARE DIRECT QUOTES FROM OUR FORMER MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL PEOPLE. ONE CAME FROM THE JANUARY 19, 1965 "DESERT SUN," WHERE HE TALKS ABOUT THE AREA JUST BEING TRASH. I'M SORRY I HAVE A LOT OF EMOTION BECAUSE THIS EFFECTS MY FAMILY DIRECTLY. AND THEN IT WASN'T UNTIL THE CITY ATTORNEY DECIDED AT THE TIME, MAYBE WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING BEFORE THE NCAA GETS INVOLVED. THEN, WE HAD THE 1968 SECTION 14 CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT. NOW, WITHIN THE REPORT, TALKS ABOUT THE LIVING CONDITION, HOW THE EVICTION NOTICES WENT DOWN AND THAT OUR FORMER MAYOR, FRANK BOGERT, THE STATUE THAT IS OUT THERE IN FRONT OF CITY HALL, THAT HE SIGNED, HE AGREED AND HE SAID, YES, CLEAR THE AREA. BECAUSE IT WAS NOT TO BENEFIT THE BLACK PEOPLE THAT LIVED IN THAT AREA. DID THEY CARE ABOUT HOW THOSE FAMILIES WERE DISPLACED? NO, THEY DID NOT. NOT AT ALL. AND I HAVE HEARD A LOT ABOUT HOW CRIME DOESN'T HAVE A COLOR. BUT IT DOES. PEOPLE HAVE BEEN AFFECTED AND IT IS DIFFICULT. IT IS DIFFICULT FOR ME, BEING A BLACK WOMAN. I'M NOT GOING TO SAY AFRICAN AMERICA BUT I'M GOING TO SAY BLACK WOMAN. BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT YOU SEE, THAT IS HOW I SEE AND THAT'S HOW I FEEL. THAT INCLUDES A LOT OF ME. DO YOU REALLY KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE INTENTIONALLY FOLLOWED BECAUSE YOU ARE ON PAROLE? AND THEN STOPPED IN FRONT OF YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S HOUSE, YOUR VEHICLE SEARCHED? NO. I HAVE WITNESSED IT, FIRSTHAND. DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE BEING PULLED OVER WITH YOUR BROTHER IN THE VEHICLE, KNOWING THAT, AS A HIGH SCHOOLER, THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN GET OUT OF THE HOUSE WAS TO VISIT YOUR BROTHER, SO HE COULD TAKE YOU TO A PARTY WITH HIM, BEING SURROUNDED BY FOUR POLICE OFFICERS WITH THEIR LIGHTS SHINING ON YOU. TELLING YOU, STAY IN YOUR CAR. WEAPONS DRAWN. I KNOW WHAT THAT'S LIKE. BECAUSE IT HAPPENED TO ME. OR WATCHING YOUR BROTHER PICK UP BEER BOTTLES FROM HIS GRANDMOTHER'S HOME BECAUSE THERE'S A PARTY ACROSS THE STREET. THE BEER BOTTLES ARE IN HER YARD. AND THE POLICE OFFICER TOOK MY BROTHER WHEN HE WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL DOWN TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, ARRESTING HIM. KEPT HIM THERE FOR FOUR HOURS AND IT WAS NOT UNTIL A GOOD FRIEND OF OURS, DR. PIQUIONNE SAID, YOU KNOW, GIVE HIM THAT BREATHALYZER TEST THAT HIS MOTHER HAS BEEN ASKING FOR, THEN THEY FOUND THAT HE DIDN'T HAVE A DROP OF ALCOHOL IN HIS SYSTEM. IF YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT DEFUNDING THE POLICE. WELL, THE POLICE OBVIOUSLY AREN'T GOING TO GO ANYWHERE. LET'S RESTRUCTURE AND GIVE THEM SOME TRAINING THAT IS NEEDED AND WHEN THEY COME TO THOSE NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS, LET IT BE A GENUINE CONVERSATION THAT THEY WANT TO HAVE. DON'T SEND SOMEBODY OUT THERE BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT THEY HAVE TO DO, IT IS NOT WORTH IT. I WANTED TO JUST TALK ON A COUPLE OF DIFFERENT THINGS BUT IN THAT, I'M GOING TO GO BACK TO SECTION 14. SORRY. I'M RUNNING OUT OF TIME AND I WANTED TO MAKE SURE I HAD ALL THESE POINTS. THE CITY AT THE TIME DIDN'T FEEL LIKE THEY OWED ANYBODY, ANY OF THOSE NATIVES WHO LIVED ON A RESERVATION AT THE TIME AN APOLOGY. IT WAS QUOTED THAT I FEEL LIKE WE DID THE PEOPLE A FAVOR. WE DID THEM A FAVOR AND THAT WAS A DIRECT QUOTE FROM FRANK BOGERT. SO WHEN I DRIVE PAST THAT STATUE, I KNOW I CAN'T EVEN LOOK AT IT. BECAUSE I HAD ALREADY KNOW WHAT THAT STATUE MEANT BECAUSE MY GRANNY, CONNIE CRAWFORD, SHE INSTILLED THAT IN ME, SAID HEY, YOU KNOW WHAT, IT HAS NOT BEEN EASY. IT HAS NOT BEEN EASY EVEN FOR ME AS A BLACK WOMAN. I HAVE A BLACK SON, AND A BLACK DAUGHTER. RAISING A BLACK SON, IS NOT EASY. HE EXPERIENCED DIFFERENT DISCRIMINATION AND STUFF LIKE THAT. IT IS HARD TO SIT DOWN WITH YOUR

SON AND BE STRONG FOR YOUR SON AS HE SEES WHAT IS GOING ON IN SOCIETY AND KNOWING THAT IN A YEAR, I HAVE TO SEND MY CHILD OUT THERE AND I CAN'T BE THERE TO PROTECT HIM BECAUSE HE HAS TO CONTINUE ONTO THAT NEXT CHAPTER. NOT SOMETHING I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO, ESPECIALLY WITH THINGS GOING ON IN TODAY'S SOCIETY. AND IF WE CAN'T FIX WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OUR OWN BACKYARD, IF WE CAN'T CORRECT THE WRONGS THAT HAVE BEEN WRONGED? THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME. THAT'S ALL I HAVE TO SAY.

**MARICRUZ OSORIO:** THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS TO SAY ABOUT THIS. FIRST, THANK YOU TO CITY COUNCIL FOR PUTTING THIS TOGETHER. IT HAS BEEN LONG OVERDUE. ANOTHER THANK YOU TO COUNCILWOMANS CHRISTY AND GRACE FOR VOTING AGAINST BODY CAMERAS. THEY ARE NOT A GOOD INVESTMENT OF OUR CITY DOLLARS RIGHT NOW, ESPECIALLY WITH SUMMER AND OUR PROBLEM WITH HOMELESSNESS AND ALL THE OTHER ISSUES THAT ARE GOING ON. SO, THANK YOU FOR VOTING AGAINST THE BODY CAMERAS. JUST A POINT OF CLARIFICATION, PALM SPRINGS IS RACIST. I HAVE BEEN TOLD TO GO BACK TO MY COUNTRY MULTIPLE TIMES HERE AND I WAS BORN AND RAISED HERE. I HAVE NEVER KNOWN ANY OTHER PLACE THAN HERE AS HOME. EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ARE NOT EQUAL HERE. I HAVE HEARD RACISM FROM WHITE TEACHERS IN PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT. AS A STUDENT, I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND ENGLISH. I HAVE BEEN A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER HERE IN THE PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT AND I HAVE WITNESSED THE TREATMENT OF THESE STUDENTS FIRSTHAND. I WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL HERE AND I WAS THE ONLY LATINA IN MY AP CLASSES. I DON'T THINK THAT IS AN ACCIDENT. I DON'T THINK I AM SMARTER THAN MY OTHER FRIENDS. SO THOSE ARE JUST SOME POINTS OF CLARIFICATION. I WOULD LIKE TO ADD THAT I AM A POLITICAL SCIENTIST AND SO I STUDY RACE AND SOCIAL DIVISIONS AND POLITICAL POWER FOR A LIVING. I WOULD JUST LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT FOCUSING ON UNITY, FOCUSING ON ONE GROUP AS A WHOLE DOES NOT ALLOW US TO SEE WHO IS FALLING THROUGH THE CRACKS. IT DOESN'T ALLOW US TO SEE WHERE OUR RESOURCES NEED TO BE PLACED. SO, BY FOCUSING ON ONE RACE, WE LEAVE PEOPLE BEHIND AND INEQUITIES ARE ALLOWED TO GO ON UNRECTIFIED. SO, WE NEED TO HAVE A FRANK CONVERSATION ABOUT WHERE OUR INCOME INEQUALITY IS AND IF YOU TAKE A LOOK AT A SOCIAL EXPLORER, JUST A DATA MAP, IT'S ALL CONCENTRATED ALONG THE EDGES. THE CENTER OF TOWN IS PROTECTED, DOWNTOWN. AS A LONGTIME RESIDENT, YOU KNOW YOU'LL NEVER SEE A HOMELESS PERSON THERE UNTIL EVERYTHING ELSE IS CLOSED. SO, LET'S, REALLY, I ENCOURAGE MY WHITE NEIGHBORS TO REALLY CONSIDER WHAT WORLD WE ARE LIVING IN. WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IT'S NOT WORTH IT TO NOT GO AFTER THE SHOPLIFTER? THERE ARE BIGGER PROBLEMS HERE, WHY DO THEY NEED TO SHOPLIFT? THAT IS THE BIGGER QUESTION THAT YOU SHOULD BE ASKING YOURSELF. STOP PUTTING A PREFERENCE ON TOURISTS AND PEOPLE WHO ARE JUST HERE TEMPORARILY. THANK YOU FOR THOSE, COUNCILMEMBERS WHO HAVE STARTED TO DO THAT. I REALLY APPRECIATE THIS PHONE CALL. I WILL LEAVE IT THERE. THANK YOU. AND DIVEST MEANS DIVEST AND DEFUND MEANS DEFUND. THANK YOU.

**LEX ORTEGA:** FIRST, I WANT TO DO AN ANNOUNCEMENT AS A PERSON WHO WAS BORN AND RAISED IN PALM SPRINGS. IT WAS MANY YEARS BEFORE I LEARNED THE HISTORY OF THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE WHO TOOK CARE OF THE LAND, THE ANCESTRAL HOME OF THE CAHUILLA PEOPLE. AND I THINK THAT THAT IS A SHAME, RIGHT? I THINK THAT THE REASON WHY WE DON'T LEARN THE HISTORY OF THE LAND IS BECAUSE THIS IS AMERICA. WELL, WE MIGHT NOT WANT TO BELIEVE IT AND IT MIGHT BE HARD TO HEAR, WHITE SUPREMACY IS WHAT THIS COUNTRY WAS

BUILT ON. PLAIN AND SIMPLE. I WANT TO AWKNOWLEDGE THE LAND, I WANT TO AWKNOWLEDGE THE ORIGINAL FOLKS WHO HAVE TAKEN CARE OF THIS LAND FOR CENTURIES. LONGER THAN AMERICA HAS BEEN AROUND. I ALSO JUST WANT TO CONTINUE TO SPEAK ON THINGS THAT THE BLACK FOLKS HAVE SHARED. THE TYPES OF RACISM THAT I HAVE EXPERIENCED MIGHT BE CLASSIFIED AS MICRO AGGRESSIONS. THE TYPES OF THINGS THAT YOU HEARD MARICRUZ SAY, FOLKS ASSUME YOU DON'T SPEAK ENGLISH BECAUSE MAYBE THE WAY YOU LOOK. THAT'S HAPPENED TO ME A COUPLE OF TIMES. THIS IS ALSO LIKE A CONTINUATION OF CONVERSATIONS THAT CAME UP DURING THE DISTRICTING PROCESS, THE PROCESS THAT WE TOOK TOGETHER WITH MANY OF YOU CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS A COUPLE OF YEARS BACK. RIGHT? THAT'S WHY IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR US TO CREATE A MINORITY MAJORITY DISTRICT BECAUSE THE REALITY IS, BECAUSE OF GENTRIFICATION, BECAUSE OF THE ECONOMY, BROWN PEOPLE AND BLACK PEOPLE HAVE BEEN PUSHED OUT. ALL THE FOLKS THAT I KNOW, WHO I GREW UP WITH IN THE GOLDEN SANDS NEIGHBORHOOD AND THE SUNRISE VILLAGE TRAILER PARKS BY COYOTE RUN, NEARLY ALL OF THEM, THEY ALL LIVE IN THE CITY OF CATEHDRAL CITY NOW. THAT IS FOR A REASON. WE ARE BUILDING MULTIMILLION DOLLAR HOUSING PROJECTS WHERE HOUSES START AT \$600,000, \$700,000. WHO CAN AFFORD THAT? TYPICALLY, IT'S USUALLY MOSTLY WHITE PEOPLE. SO, ALL OF THESE ISSUES ARE RELATED. I ALSO AGREE THAT BODY CAMERAS AREN'T NECESSARILY THE WISEST INVESTMENT. AND SIMULTANEOUSLY, THAT IS SOMETHING THAT THE BLACK COMMUNITY HERE LOCALLY HAS BEEN ASKING FOR. SO HOW DO WE HOLD WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN NOW, WHAT FOLKS HAVE BEEN ASKING FOR NOW BUT ALSO LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE? LASTLY, YOU KNOW, AS A PERSON WHO IS QUEER, I'VE BEEN REALLY PROUD OF MY CITY FOR STEPPING UP TO THINGS LIKE MARRIAGE EQUALITY AND WANTING TO BE A MODEL. I HAVE HEARD THE RHETORIC COME FROM THE DAIS. MEDIA INTERVIEWS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS. AND I THINK THAT THAT IS SOMETHING THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO DO, BE A MODEL WHEN IT COMES TO RACE, WHEN IT COMES TO POLICING. I THINK IF THAT IS SOMETHING THAT WE WANT TO LIVE UP TO, AS A CITY, TO BE A MODEL FOR OTHER CITIES THIS IS A PERFECT CASE TO DO IT. WE HAVE OUR OWN POLICE DEPARTMENT. WE AREN'T BEHOLDEN TO A COUNTY SHERIFF. AND SO, THERE IS A RIPE OPPORTUNITY HERE FOR US TO MAKE THE CHANGES THAT QUITE FRANKLY WILL BE FOR THE REST MY LIFE THAT I LIVE HERE. THIS IS WHERE MY FAMILY IS. SO, I REALLY HOPE THAT ACTION HAPPENS. I AM GLAD WE HAVE HAD THE ACTION WE HAVE HAD SO FAR AND I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING WHAT COMES IN THE FUTURE. AND I ALSO, YOU KNOW, THANK YOU, CITY COUNCIL FOR DOING THIS. BUT THIS IS ALSO NOT JUST A CITY GOVERNMENT PROBLEM. THIS IS A PROBLEM WITHIN ALL OF OUR BUSINESSES, NONPROFITS, ALL OF OUR SERVICE AGENCIES. SO, YOU KNOW, THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL OF US TO LOOK INWARD TOO, FIND OUR SPIRITS OF INFLUENCE AND ALSO, BE A PART OF THE CHANGE. THANK YOU.

**CRIS GARCIA:** GOOD MORNING, EVERYBODY. SO I JUST WANT TO TALK ABOUT THIS WHOLE SITUATION WITH THE POLICE BRUTALITY AND POLICE VIOLENCE THAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING BECAUSE I FELT REALLY, PRETTY UPSET WHEN I HEARD ABOUT POLICE VIOLENCE IN MINNEAPOLIS, WHEN IT COMES WITH BLACK PEOPLE BEING TREATED LIKE THIS. BUT THE ONLY ISSUE IS THAT POLICE NEED MORE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE LAWS. BECAUSE WHAT I NOTICED IS THAT THEY NEED TO KNOW ALL ABOUT THE LAWS. OF COURSE, POLICE HAVE TO FOLLOW THEIR OWN LAWS, INCLUDING THE AMENDMENTS, FOR EXAMPLE, THE FIRST AMENDMENT, THAT THEY NEED TO BE TAKING IT SERIOUSLY AND ENFORCING ALL THINGS LIKE FREE SPEECH

AND THINGS LIKE THAT. AND I ALSO WANT, FOR EXAMPLE, THE COPS NEED TO TAKE ACTION TO STOP THIS VIOLENCE WHEN IT COMES TO PEOPLE WHO ARE COMMITTING SUCH A MINOR CRIME. SINCE I DON'T KNOW WHY COPS ARE DOING THIS, JUST VIOLENCE AGAINST THESE PEOPLE FOR ONLY COMMITTING JUST SMALL TYPES OF INFRACTIONS. BECAUSE THIS NEEDS TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY BUT I KNOW THAT BODY CAMS ARE A GREAT THING, IT WORKS TOWARDS GREAT CHANGE. BUT THE ISSUE IS, WHEN IT COMES TO THE ACADEMIES AND EVERYTHING LIKE THAT, IT IS TOO SHORT, BY THE WAY. I HEARD ABOUT POLICE ACADEMIES BEING AROUND TWO MONTHS OR SOMETHING. BUT IT NEEDS TO BE A LOT LONGER. I HEARD, A LOT OF COUNTRIES WITH A POLICE ACADEMY, THEY HAVE AROUND LIKE TWO YEARS TO BECOME A POLICE OFFICER. BUT IN MY OPINION, I WISH THE POLICE ACADEMY WOULD BRING MORE KNOWLEDGE ON THE LAWS AND EVERYTHING LIKE THAT SO THAT THEY CAN FOLLOW AND TAKE THEM SERIOUSLY WHEN IT COMES TO THE INFRACTIONS AND WHATEVER TYPE OF CRIME THEY COMMITTED. ESPECIALLY SMALL AND BIG CRIMES BUT WHY DO COPS JUST BRING WEAPONS AND EVERYTHING LIKE THAT, FOR JUST COMMITTING SMALL CRIMES? DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE TO ME. BECAUSE THIS IS WHY PEOPLE GET REALLY NERVOUS AND PEOPLE GET AFRAID OF COPS. BECAUSE I KNOW, I FELT VERY SAD WHEN I HEARD POLICE VIOLENCE AND EVERYTHING FOR SUCH A SMALL CRIME. THEY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING REALLY BAD BECAUSE I RESPECT BLACKS, I RESPECT PEOPLE OF COLOR. YOU KNOW, EVERYBODY IS WELCOME HERE. I KNOW PALM SPRINGS IS A GREAT CITY AND WE ARE NOT IMMUNE TO RACIAL THINGS LIKE THAT, INCLUDING THE TYPE OF CARE THAT I HEARD ABOUT. IT IS NOT THE RIGHT THING TO SAY TO THE PEOPLE AND EVERYTHING LIKE THAT. BUT MY BIG THOUGHT IS THAT THE POLICE ACADEMY SHOULD MAKE IT A FOUR-YEAR REQUIREMENT TO SERVE. FOUR YEARS IS PRETTY MUCH ENOUGH SO THAT THE POLICE WILL KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT THE LAWS, INCLUDING THE CONSTITUTION AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964 AND TAKE THINGS SERIOUSLY AND OF COURSE BY BANNING DISCRIMINATION, NEEDS TO BE ENFORCED, WHETHER INSTITUTIONAL OR INDIVIDUAL. THEY HAVE TO TAKE THINGS SERIOUSLY ON BANNING DISCRIMINATION AND ONCE EVERYBODY FEELS WELCOME AND TREATED EQUALLY, THOSE ARE MY THOUGHTS.

**EDWIN RAMORAN:** GOOD DAY, EVERYBODY. THANK YOU, MAYOR KORS, MAYOR PRO TEM HOLSTEGE, AND COUNCIL MEMBERS, GARNER, MIDDLETON AND WOODS. THANK YOU, ANTHONY. ANTHONY MEJIA ALWAYS KEEPS IT TOGETHER. THANK YOU SO MUCH. I AM FULL OF EMOTION RIGHT NOW. I THINK A LOT OF US ARE MUTED RIGHT NOW BECAUSE YOU WON'T HEAR THE EMOTION THAT IS ACTUALLY THERE, YOU CAN FEEL IT, RIGHT? IT IS JUST PALPABLE. I HAVE TO SAY AS FULL DISCLOSURE, I DO SERVE ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND THE 2020 CENSUS COMMITTEE. I WAS SO PROUD TO BE PART OF THE DISTRICTING PROCESS LAST YEAR. TO BE PART, TO BE BORN AND RAISED IN DISTRICT 1, TO HAVE GRACE GARNER ELECTED TO BE OUR COUNCIL MEMBER IS A HUGE DEAL. I AM ALSO A MEMBER AND COFOUNDER OF AN ORGANIZATION FOR BAYANIHAN DESERT WHICH IS FOCUSED ON HELPING WITH FILIPINO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CIVIC DUTIES AND I WANT TO START OFF, STRAIGHT UP I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN VETERANS TRACT, WE KNOW WHAT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD NAME IS. BUT I HAVE A LOT OF COMPLAINTS. I'M SO GRATEFUL THAT I HAVE BEEN UPLIFTED BY OUR CITY COUNCIL, BY OUR COMMUNITY, ALEXIS ORTEGA, DIETER CRAWFORD, WE HAVE BEEN UPLIFTED BY SO MANY OF OUR LEADERS LIKE JARVIS CRAWFORD AS WELL AND THERE ARE SO MANY OF US. BUT I WANT TO GET TO A LOT OF THINGS AND I THINK THIS IS JUST AT THE BEGINNING OF WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN IN TERMS OF JUST HOW WE CAN CONSOLIDATE ALL THE DISCUSSION AND FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS. BUT I DO WANT TO JUST GO AND TALK

ABOUT TWO THINGS. I'M IN A CURATOR BY TRAINING AND I HAVE COME INTO LOCAL POLITICS NOW. NEIGHBORHOOD POLITICS. AND I'M LOOKING AT ALL THE STRUCTURAL THINGS THAT ARE HAPPENING AND CHANGES. I WANT TO GET TO TWO WRITERS IN PARTICULAR, I'VE BEEN WRITING ABOUT ARTISTS. I'VE BEEN LOOKING UPON THE PAULO FRIRE, FOR INSTANCE. HE SAID IN HIS BOOK, "TEACHERS AT CULTURAL WORKERS," HE WROTE, THE SO-CALLED STRENGTH OF THE BLOOD TO USE A POPULAR EXPRESSION EXISTS BUT IT IS NOT A DETERMINING FACTOR. JUST AS THE PRESENCE OF THE CULTURAL FACTOR ALONE DOES NOT EXPLAIN EVERYTHING. IN TRUTH, FREEDOM, LIKE A CREATIVE DEED OF HUMAN BEINGS, LIKE AN ADVENTURE, LIKE AN EXPERIENCE OF RISK AND CREATION HAS A LOT TO DO ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WHAT WE INHERIT AND WHAT WE ACQUIRE. AND THEN, JUST TO END, I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO BRING IN EDWARDS. HE HAS A HUGE INFLUENCE ON US AND JUST LOOKING OUR PALASTINAIN SIBLINGS. I WANT TO SEE THEM DO WORK WITH OUR SIBLINGS AND THE AFRICAN AMERICANS DESCENDANT, THE NATIVE AMERICAN DESCENDANT, WE NEED TO LOOK AT OUR ASIAN, PACIFIC ISLANDER AND LATINX SIBLINGS WHEN WE DO THIS WORK TOGETHER. THAT IS THE COALITION THAT WE ARE WORKING ON, THIS IS WHAT HE WROTE, REPRESENTATIONS ARE A FORM OF HUMAN ECONOMY. IN A WAY, AND NECESSARY TO LIFE AND SOCIETY. AND IN A SENSE, BETWEEN SOCIETIES. SO, I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY WAY OF GETTING AWAY FROM THEM. THEY ARE AS BASIC AS LANGUAGE. BUT WE MUST ELIMINATE SYSTEMS OF REPRESENTATION THAT CARRY WITH THEM KIND OF THIS AUTHORITY, WHICH, TO MY MIND HAS BEEN PRESENT BECAUSE IT DOESN'T PERMIT OR MAKE ROOM FOR INTERVENTIONS AS PART OF THOSE MAKING THESE REPRESENTATIONS. I'LL LEAVE IT THERE AND I CAN'T WAIT TILL WE CAN DISCUSS MORE WITH ALL MY SIBLINGS OUT THERE IN PALM SPRINGS. THANKS.

**KATHY WEREMIUK:** I ACTUALLY WANT TO TALK BUT THE POLICE. I WANT TO TALK ABOUT A COUPLE OF THINGS I'VE SEEN AND HAVE BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT. LIKE LEX ORTEGA WORKED ON THE DISTRICTS TWO YEARS AGO AND IN DOING THAT, I HAD THE OCCASION TO GO TO MULTIPLE COMMUNITIES AND MULTIPLE COMMUNITY MEETINGS. I WENT SEVERAL TIMES TO THE DESERT HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY WHERE WHAT I SAW WAS RUDE INTENTION AND RUDE BEHAVIOR ON THE PART OF THE POLICE TOWARD THE RESIDENTS OF THAT COMMUNITY WHEN THEY RAISED ISSUES OF BEING STOPPED ON THE STREET AND ISSUES ABOUT BEING NOTIFIED IF THEIR CHILDREN WERE IN TROUBLE AT SCHOOL, AS OPPOSED TO JUST HAVING POLICE INTERVENTION. AND I COMPAIRED THAT WITH MY OWN COMMUNITY, WHICH IS ALSO IN DISTRICT 1. IT IS WEALTHIER AND WHITER, MUCH WHITER AND THE POLICE THAT COME TO OUR COMMUNITY MEETINGS ARE RESPECTFUL, POLITE, PLEASANT AND THEY DON'T HAVE TENSION. THAT BEHAVIOR IS A PRIVILEGE I DON'T WANT TO HAVE. I DON'T WANT THERE TO BE TWO TYPES OF TREATMENTS FOR DIFFERENT PEOPLE, REALLY BASED ON RACE. IN THE DISTRICTING PROCESS THAT WE WORKED ON, IT WAS AN ATTEMPT TO BRING THE LATINA, THE BLACK, THE FILIPINO, THE ASIAN COMMUNITIES INTO OUR CITY. AND I THINK WE HAVE DONE THAT. WE STARTED TO DO THAT. THESE DISCUSSIONS, I THINK ARE REALLY A STEP FORWARD BECAUSE WE DID DO THAT. I AM HOPING THAT ONE OF THE THINGS THAT COMES OUT OF THESE DISCUSSIONS ARE A THOROUGH REVIEW OF POLICE PROCEDURES. I HAVE A LOT OF CONCERN ABOUT PEOPLE BEING STOPPED BECAUSE THEY ARE ON PAROLE OR JUST STOPPED BECAUSE THEY ARE BLACK TEENAGERS. I THINK WE HAVE TO LOOK AT WHERE THE POLICE DO THAT, WHAT THEY ARE DOING IT AND WHETHER THOSE THINGS FIT INTO OUR VALUES. THAT IS MY FIRST CONCERN. AS TO WHAT COMES OUT OF THAT, THE REVIEW THAT WE HAVE WILL NEED TO BE

THOROUGH AND OUR POLICE NEED TO BE TRAINED IN A WAY THAT THEY DON'T ESCALATE SITUATIONS LIKE I SAW IN DESERT HIGHLAND AND THAT THEY DE-ESCALATE SITUATIONS. AND WHERE THERE IS SITUATIONS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE SOMEONE COMING IN WITH LETHAL OR THE POSSIBILITY OF LETHAL FORCE, WHICH IS WHAT THE POLICE ARE TRAINED TO USE, THAT WE LOOK AT, ARE THERE AREAS WHERE THAT SHOULD NOT BE A FACTOR IN WORKING WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE IN CRISIS? THANK YOU.

**RACHELLE CAMPBELL:** GREAT, THANK YOU. MY NAME IS RACHELLE CAMPBELL. I'M A NATIVE TO PALM SPRINGS, BORN AND RAISED. FOR 39 YEARS AND ALSO A CITY OF PALM SPRINGS EMPLOYEE, I WORKED WITH THE CITY FOR 23 YEARS. I REALLY WANT TO JUST MAKE A COMMENT ABOUT OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT. OUR CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT IS LIKE NO OTHER. THREE YEARS AGO, WE ALL VOTED FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND WITH THESE RESORT CITIES, IT IS NEEDED. WE WOKE UP THIS MORNING AND READ THE NEWS AND THREE OF OUR OFFICERS WERE ASSAULTED BY SOMEONE THAT WAS ON DRUGS AND THAT IS NOT OKAY. IF YOU LOOK AT IT, THE POLICE OFFICERS, THEY ARE THE ONES THAT ARE REALLY TAKING THE ABUSE RIGHT NOW. THEY ARE STILL SERVING THE CITY; THEY ARE STILL WORKING HARD TO PROTECT. 20 YEARS AGO, EVERYONE SAID, OKAY. WE NEED MORE COMMUNITY-BASED POLICING. THAT IS WHAT OUR CITY WANTED. COMMUNITY-BASED POLICING, NEIGHBORHOOD CONTACT. NOW, THEY ARE DEMANDING THAT TO CHANGE. BUT IT IS NOT OF, WELL, LETS HAVE MENTAL HEALTH COME IN AND WORK WITH IT. AS A RESIDENT OF PALM SPRINGS, DRIVING DOWNTOWN WITH MY 12 YEAR OLD NIECE, SEEING HOMELESS PEOPLE DOING DRUGS RIGHT ON THE STREET CORNER AND THEN HAVING TO TRY TO EXPLAIN TO THEM WHAT IS GOING ON. THE HOMELESSNESS IS AN ISSUE. THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IS TRYING TO DO WHATEVER THEY CAN TO HELP WITH IT. IT SEEMS LIKE OTHER AGENCIES WHO AGREED TO HELP WITH HOMELESSNESS, THEY ARE NOT STEPPING UP TO HELP. THAT IS ALL I WANTED TO SAY, THANK YOU.

**BRIAN FARIAS:** I'M GOING TO SAY SOMETHING THAT SOME PEOPLE DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE HEARING THESE THINGS BUT I AM NOT A RACIST. WHERE I COME FROM, I WAS RASIED POOR, MY PARENTS RAISED 12 KIDS, 12 OF US. THEY BROUGHT US INTO THE WORLD; THE DOCTORS WERE WHITE. OUR BABYSITTER WHEN WE WERE KIDS WAS A BLACK LADY. YOU KNOW, WE ARE MISSING THE POINT OF WHY WE'RE HAVING THIS CONVERSATION RIGHT NOW WITH YOU GUYS. IT KINDA SEEMS THAT POLICE ARE DOING EVERYTHING WRONG AND POLICE ARE RACIST, THE POLICE ARE NOT RACIST. IN FERGUSON, I MEAN IN MINNEAPOLIS, GEORGE FLOYD WAS TRYING TO CASH SOME FAKE \$20 BILL. THEY CALLED THE COPS AND HE DIDN'T WANT TO GET IN THE BACKSEAT OF THE CAR. THEY STRUGGLED WITH HIM, THEY PUT THEIR KNEE ON HIM AND NOW, THEY PROTEST THAT IT'S RACIST. THE GUY WENT TO CASH A FAKE \$20 BILL. AND THE CASE WHEN ALL THIS STARTED, HE WENT TO GET ICE CREAM AT 10:00 AT NIGHT. HE SEES THE MAN AFTER WATCHING THE SHADOW BY THE WALL AND INSTEAD OF HIM WALKING BACK TO THE HOUSE, OR RUNNING AND CALLING THE COPS, THERE'S A MAN OUT THERE WALKING. HE CONFRONTS THIS GUY AND THEY GET IN AN ARGUMENT AND HE GETS SHOT. NOW, THERE IS ANOTHER PROTEST THAT IT IS RACIST. IT IS NOT RACIST. I DON'T DO NOTHING WRONG. I DON'T HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT THE COPS. IF A COP STOPPED ME, THE BLUE UNIFORM MEANS SOMETHING. THE CAR WITH BLUE AND LIGHTS MEANS SOMETHING. I STOP, ASK FOR MY DRIVERS LICENSE, WHATEVER THEY WANT TO SEE. HERE IT IS. YES SIR. AND THEY LET ME GO ON MY WAY. NOTHING WRONG. I DON'T RUN. BUT ALL THESE PROTESTERS WE ARE

SEEING RIGHT NOW, YOU KNOW, IN THE MILLIONS, NO PEOPLE SAY, HEY, GUYS, LET'S NOT DO DRUGS. HEY, GUYS, LET'S NOT DO FAKE MONEY. IF THE COPS STOP YOU, STOP. YOU GOT TO KNOW; WE HAVE GOT A BETTER CHANCE IN COURT THAN RUNNING AWAY FROM THE COPS. THE GUY IN WENDY'S, IN ATLANTA, YOU SEE SO CLEARLY ON TV. IF THAT GUY WOULD HAVE NOT RUN FROM THE COP AND GOTTEN A TASER, THAT COP WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN DEAD. AND WE WOULDN'T BE HAVING THIS CONVERSATION. JUST, WELL, ANOTHER COP DEAD. THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS. BUT NO. NOW THE COP SHOT THE BLACK MAN. NOW, WE HAVE GOT PROTESTERS ALL OVER THE PLACE. IN SACRAMENTO, SOME TIME AGO, A GUY WAS BREAKING WINDOWS IN THE CAR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT AND THE COP COMES AND THEY CATCH HIM. THEY RUN TO GRANDMA'S HOUSE, HIDES BEHIND THE SHED WHERE HE HAS NO PLACE ELSE TO GO AND HE PULLS OUT HIS CELL PHONE AND A COP SHOT HIM. THEY THOUGHT IT WAS A GUN. SO, THERE IS A BIG PROTEST. THEY CALL IT RACIST. IT IS NOT RACIST IF WE DON'T DO NOTHING WRONG. WE WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT THE COPS. YOU KNOW, I COME FROM A TOWN WHERE IN THE 70s, THEY WOULD SAY, IT IS 7:00. YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR KIDS ARE? IT'S 10:00, YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR KIDS ARE? YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR KIDS ARE DOING? EDUCATION, IT IS BEST TO EDUCATE PEOPLE IN THIS MANNER, MAYBE THE CRIME WILL STOP. BUT I MEAN THESE PROTESTERS ARE OUT THERE, THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW GEORGE FLOYD. THEY'RE OUT THERE PROTESTING JUSTICE BECAUSE THEY SEE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET INTO STORES, LOOT THE STORES, STEAL AS MUCH AS THEY CAN, TAKE AS MUCH AS THEY CAN AND IF A COP COME AROUND AND BEAT THEM. IF THEY DON'T STOP, THEY HAVE TO TAKE ORDER AND STOP THIS PERSON. STOP. AND I'M A COP, I GOT A BADGE. I HAVE THE RIGHT TO PUT YOU IN JAIL. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GO TO JAIL? I'M GOING TO DO WHAT I HAVE TO DO. ANOTHER GENTLEMAN, THE COPS STOPPED HIM FOR A TAILLIGHT THAT DIDN'T WORK. HE GOT OUT OF THE CAR, THE COP, WELL, IT WAS GOING TO BE JUST A ROUTINE STOP. THE GUY RUNS, THE COP SHOOTS HIM IN THE BACK, KILLS THE GUY. AGAIN, WHAT IS THIS THING OF RUNNING AWAY? STOP. THE COP, HE JUST WANTS SOME INFORMATION. YOU HAVE GOT A BETTER CHANCE IN COURT.

**ANGIE PATRICK:** OKAY. FIRST OF ALL, JUST LIKE TO SAY, THANK YOU GUYS FOR HAVING THIS MEETING. I DIDN'T THINK I WAS GOING TO PARTICIPATE. I'M NOT A GET UP ON A SATURDAY MORNING TYPE OF PERSON. BUT FOR SOME REASON, I HAD A VERY VIVID DREAM. SO THAT COMPELLED ME TO DO THIS. I'M A LIFELONG PALM SPRINGS RESIDENT. I HAVE BEEN HERE MY ENTIRE LIFE. I LIVE IN THE SAME COMMUNITY, DESERT HIGHLAND GATEWAY ESTATES. RIGHT NOW, I AM LIVING IN MY PARENTS' HOME, THE ONLY HOME I HAVE EVER KNOWN. SO, I DON'T KNOW ANY OTHER PLACE. THERE IS A LOT I CAN SAY, WE HAVE A PAST, WE HAVE A PRESENT, GOD KNOWS, ONLY OUR FUTURE. I LOVE THIS CITY. I THINK WE HAVE A WONDERFUL CITY COUNCIL. GOD BLESS YOU ALL. YOU ARE GREAT PEOPLE. CHIEF REYES IS AWESOME AND THANK YOU CHIEF FOR DOING A GREAT JOB BUT AS SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN HERE THEIR ENTIRE LIFE AND PALM SPRINGS IS LIKE A TALE OF TWO CITIES. GROWING UP HERE, THE COMMUNITY I GREW UP IN WAS 85%-90% WHITE. YOU COULD SPRINKLE IN ANOTHER 10%, YOU CAN SPRINKLE IN A COUPLE BLACK POPULATION, HISPANIC AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS, ASIAN AND SO FORTH. SO, GROWING UP IN A CITY THAT WAS PREDOMINANTLY WHITE AND HAVING YOUR PARENTS COME FROM A SMALL TOWN IN MISSISSIPPI, THEY WEREN'T ON SECTION 14. A LOT OF PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY COME FROM SECTION 14 AND ENDED UP RESIDING HERE. SO I HEARD THE HORROR STORIES OF IT. EVEN THOUGH I DIDN'T HAVE THAT EXPERIENCE, I STILL HAVE SOME UNCOMFORTABLE

EXPERIENCES WITH RACISM HERE IN PALM SPRINGS. I THINK THE MOST HURTFUL THING FOR ME GROWING UP WAS, YOU KNOW, PALM SPRINGS AND SPRING BREAK WAS THE ULTIMATE, I MEAN IT WAS ALL OVER THE WORLD. THAT WAS THE PLACE TO BE, SPRING BREAK. AND I USED TO GO DOWNTOWN WITH MY FRIENDS AND IT WAS A MIXTURE. YOU KNOW, I HAD A LOT OF WHITE FRIENDS, I HAD THESE FRIENDS, WHATEVER. YOU CAN WALK IN, WHATEVER. YOU WILL BUMP IN TO OTHER AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS AND THEY WOULD LOOK LOST AND CONFUSED AND THEY WOULD ASK ME A QUESTION. I WOULD TELL THEM ABOUT, YOU KNOW, WHERE TO GO, WHAT TO DO AND I WOULD ALWAYS GET THIS REACTION, ALWAYS. WAIT A MINUTE. YOU TELLING ME THERE ARE BLACK PEOPLE THAT ACTUALLY LIVE IN PALM SPRINGS? I SAID YEAH, WE HAVE BEEN LIVING HERE SINCE THE 1950s. AND TO BE IN THE COMMUNITY WHERE PEOPLE DON'T THINK YOU ACTUALLY EXIST, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO ACTUALLY RESIDE AND WAS KIND OF HURTFUL. SO, I ALWAYS GOT THIS FEELING LIKE WE WERE LEFT INVISIBLE. WE WEREN'T PART OF THE MARKETING OF PALM SPRINGS, THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY. BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP ME FROM GETTING INVOLVED, AS THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE DESERT HIGHLAND GATEWAY ESTATES COMMUNITY ACTION ASSOCIATION I SERVED ON TEN BOARDS THROUGHOUT THIS CITY, MOSTLY AT THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF FORMER MAYOR RON ODEN, AT THE TIME WAS A INSTRUCTOR AT THE COLLEGE OF THE DESERT. HE ENCOURAGED ME TO GET INVOLVED. HAD A VERY AMBITIOUS CAMPAIGN, HE STARTED THE PALM SPRINGS AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. HE PUT HIS HEART INTO IT AND IT WAS SHORT LIVED. THERE WAS ALWAYS A GREAT NEED TO BUILD BLACK BUSINESSES HERE. ALL MY FRIENDS WHO ARE IN BUSINESS, BLACK BUSINESS OWNERS HERE IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY, BORN AND RAISED IN PALM SPRINGS, LIVED IN THIS COMMUNITY. THEY DON'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE IN PALM SPRINGS. EVERYBODY LIVES IN CATHEDRAL CITY, THAT IS WHERE THEY HAVE THEIR BUSINESS OR THEY ARE LIVING IN DESERT HOT SPRINGS AND/OR PALM DESERT BUT IN THE DESERT SOMEWHERE ELSE, SOME DESERT CITY. SO, IT IS A SHAME THAT ALL WE PUT INTO GROWING THAT CULTURE HERE. WHEN WE GET TO AN AGE TO RAISE OUR OWN FAMILY AND OWN OUR OWN HOMES THAT WE GO TO ANOTHER DESERT CITY. NUMBER ONE, IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE FOR MOST OF US TO LIVE HERE. LIKE I SAID, WE STILL FEEL WE ARE LEFT OUT OF THE MARKETING. I'M DOING MY AIR QUOTATIONS OF PALM SPRINGS. AND IT IS TIME FOR US TO STOP BEING INVISIBLE AND LET PEOPLE KNOW THAT WE ARE HERE. I LOVE THIS CITY. I HAVE DONE A LOT OF WORK WITH THE PALM SPRINGS PD. I WAS PART OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY. I'M A GRADUATE, I PATROLLED WITH THEM. I WENT TO A LOT OF MEETINGS. THEY HAVE A TOUGH JOB. BEING A POLICE OFFICER IS SOMETHING, PERSONALLY, I COULDN'T SEE MYSELF DOING. AFTER ONE DAY OF PATROLLING AROUND WITH THEM, I GOT A WHOLE NEW RESPECT. BUT THANK YOU, GOD BLESS EVERYONE, THANK YOU.

**THOMAS SWOPE:** LISTEN, THANK YOU, CITY COUNCIL. THANK YOU, MAYOR, FOR DOING THIS. I'M ACTUALLY A CATHEDRAL CITY RESIDENT. CAME IN AND I WAS GOING TO LISTEN BUT REAL QUICK, I JUST WANTED TO MAKE A COUPLE OF COMMENTS ON A COUPLE OF THINGS. REALLY QUICK, THE STATUE, MOVE IT. IT IS IN FRONT OF CITY HALL AND THAT KIND OF SENDS A MESSAGE, PLAIN AND SIMPLE. I KNOW HOW PEOPLE FEEL ABOUT IT, MOVE IT AWAY FROM THE FRONT. PUT IT ANYWHERE ELSE IN PALM SPRINGS. IN FRONT OF CITY HALL? IT KIND OF SENDS A MESSAGE TO ALL YOUR RESIDENTS AND PEOPLE WHO VISIT HERE THAT KNOW THE HISTORY OF THAT THING. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING I WANTED TO COMMENT ON WAS ABOUT THE BODY CAMERAS. I DID NOT REALIZE THERE WAS A

DEBATE ON THOSE. I JUST WANTED TO SAY, PERSONALLY, AS A BLACK MAN WHO LIVES IN THIS COUNTRY, BASICALLY WITH THE ENVIRONMENT WE ARE IN RIGHT NOW, IF I'M EVER PULLED OVER BY THE POLICE, I WANT EVERY CAMERA AT EVERY ANGLE ROLLING AND RECORDING EVERYTHING. I DON'T KNOW WHY THEY WOULD EVEN BE IN THE DEBATE ABOUT THOSE. TO ME, THAT IS THE EQUALIZER. A LOT OF DEBATES THAT ARE HAPPENING NOW WOULD NOT BE HAPPENING IF IT WASN'T FOR THE BODY CAMERA. I DON'T KNOW WHY THAT IS IN QUESTION. I PERSONALLY FEEL THAT THEY SHOULD BE UTILIZED AND THEY SHOULD NOT HAVE AN OFF BUTTON. THEY SHOULD BE RECORDING AT ALL TIMES TO A CLOUD SO THAT IF WE NEED TO GET TO THE DATA, SOMEONE CAN GET TO IT. THAT IS JUST MY PERSONAL OPINION. IF YOU GUYS ARE DEBATING THAT, PLEASE, TAKE THAT INTO CONSIDERATION. I WANT THE CAMERAS. THAT'S ALL I HAVE. THANK YOU.

[AT THIS TIME, CITY CLERK MEJIA CLARIFIED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF POLICE BODY-WORN CAMERAS ON JULY 9, 2020.]

**DENISE JANSSEN EAGER:** HI. MY NAME IS DENISE JANSSEN EAGER. I HAVE BEEN LIVING HERE IN PALM SPRINGS SINCE ABOUT 2013. MY FAMILY MOVED FROM WISCONSIN. I HAVE BEEN A SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCATE PRETTY MUCH SINCE THE LATE '70s. SO ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS I DID, ARRIVING IN PALM SPRINGS IS I TOOK THE COMMUNITY POLICE ACADEMY CLASS THAT IS OFFERED HERE AT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. I WAS VERY INTERESTED IN EVERYTHING AND AGREED WITH THE LAST CALLERS, THAT, YES, OFFICERS DO HAVE A ROUGH JOB. I WAS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT, WHY ARE THEY THE PEOPLE WHO ARE THE FIRST RESPONDER TO THOSE WHO LIVE HOMELESS? THAT WAS STRANGE TO ME. I STILL DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND THAT. I FEEL LIKE THERE WOULD BE BETTER USE OF FUNDING THROUGH SOCIAL WORKERS, OTHER AGENCIES IN HELPING PEOPLE WHO LIVE HOUSELESS. I DO SEE THAT THE POLICE DO HAVE A ROLE IN PEOPLE WHO LIVE HOMELESS. BUT THAT IS NOT WHAT I'M HERE TO TALK ABOUT. SO PERHAPS THAT CAN ALSO BE INVESTIGATED. WHAT I WANT TO TALK ABOUT WAS WHEN IN THE DISCUSSION OF USE OF FORCE CAME UP, THE SPEAKERS, THE POLICE OFFICERS SAID, IT WAS BASICALLY A FEW BAD APPLES. IT WAS A SITUATIONAL ISSUE, BASED ON THE OFFICERS. WHEN I BROUGHT THIS TO A ROOM FULL OF PEOPLE, ABOUT WHERE DOES RACISM GO IN POLICING, WHAT ABOUT THAT? AGAIN, I AM A SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCATE. THEY BASICALLY SAID, NO. WE DON'T SEE IT. I WAS STRUCK BY THAT. AND I REALLY AGREE WITH THE PREVIOUS CALLERS, WHO HAVE SAID, WE NEED A THOROUGH REVIEW OF POLICING IN PALM SPRINGS, INCLUDING THIS ACADEMY, BECAUSE WE ARE HEARING ONE THING IN THESE ACADEMIES AND YET, WHEN THE SITUATION, THE REVOLUTION THAT HAS OCCURRED THIS PAST SUMMER, WE ARE HEARING THE POLICE CHIEF COME OUT AND SAY SOMETHING TOTALLY DIFFERENT. I AM REALLY CONFLICTED BY THIS. THE OTHER THING I WANTED TO DO WITH THIS REVIEW IS THINGS LIKE, WHY IS THE COVID-19 VIOLATORS HOTLINE ALIGNED WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT? I THINK THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS WITHIN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT THAT THEY ARE DOING WELL. I ALSO THINK THAT THERE ARE A WHOLE LOT OF QUESTION MARKS THAT WE AS A COMMUNITY NEED TO START LOOKING INTO AND SAYING, WHAT IS UP WITH THAT? WHY IS THIS? AND THANKS FOR LISTENING. THAT IS ALL I HAVE TO SAY.

**RAGHDA ZACHARIA:** HELLO, EVERYONE. I WAS NOT GOING TO SPEAK I WAS GOING TO SEND MY EMAILS AND THOUGHTS TO THE CLERK THIS MORNING. BUT I LOVE THIS FORUM AND I CAN TELL THERE ARE A LOT OF INTELLIGENCE AND A LOT OF

PARTICIPANTS, THAT IS MY OWN THOUGHTS. I AM A BELIEVER OF MOVING FORWARD AND FINDING A SOLUTION. MOVING BACKWARDS DOESN'T SOLVE ANYTHING. FOR THE LONGEST TIME, I HAVE BEEN THINKING OF A SOLUTION BECAUSE WORDS HAVE A HUGE POWER. SO, MY THOUGHTS, JUST WANT TO LET YOU KNOW, I'M AN IMMIGRANT, MOVED HERE 37 YEARS AGO, RAISED THREE KIDS. I HAVE GONE THROUGH EVERYTHING, I HAVE HAD NEW JOBS, MOVED TO PALM SPRINGS TWO YEARS AGO FROM A SMALLER TOWN BY PALM SPRINGS AND I JUST BELIEVE THE POWER OF WORDS. FOR INSTANCE, WHY DON'T WE TAKE THE LABELING OFF OUR VOCABULARY? BECAUSE THE MINUTE YOU STATE CERTAIN WORDS, IT ALREADY CREATES HOSTILITY. IT CREATES DIVISION. IT MAKES YOU FEEL INTIMIDATED. WE ARE ALL ONE COMMUNITY. WE ARE ALL AMERICAN. WE ARE ALL IN PALM SPRINGS. SO, TAKE THE LABELING OUT AND THAT WILL REDUCE RACISM. BECAUSE IF SOMEBODY COMES AND TALK IN MY FACE, WHICH HAPPENED TO ME IN THE PAST, NOT TODAY. I WAS STILL ASKED, WHERE ARE YOU FROM? I HAVE THE PERFECT SOLUTION, ANSWER FOR THAT. SO, I HONESTLY JUST WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU A RECENT EXPERIENCE. I ATTENDED ALL THE MARCHES IN PALM SPRINGS JUST TO EDUCATE MYSELF. AND I CAN TELL YOU, I AM 61. I CAN TELL YOU, THERE'S A LOT OF HISTORICAL MISINFORMATION THAT HAS BEEN SHARED WITH THOSE YOUNG ONES. A LOT OF HOSTILITY WITH THE WORDING IN THAT FACILITY. SO, AFTER ALL OF THAT, I DID APPROACH A YOUNG SPEAKER AND I APPROACHED TWO OTHER PROMINENT SPEAKERS AND ONE OF THEM LIVES HERE IN PALM SPRINGS. I JUST SAID, I HAVE A SUGGESTION FOR YOU. I UNDERSTAND THE ISSUE BUT WHAT ABOUT IF WE STOPPED LABELING? WHAT DO YOU THINK? DO YOU THINK THAT IS GOING TO REDUCE THE HOSTILITY AND MAKE EVERY PERSON AWARE THAT WE ARE A VALUABLE HUMAN BEING, WE ARE ALL ONE COMMUNITY AND MOVE FORWARD? I ASSURE YOU; YOU SHOULD SEE THE LOOK ON THEIR FACE. ACTUALLY, A SPEAKER WHO IS PROMINENT LOOKED AT ME AND SAID, WELL, THAT'S ALL WE WANT TO DO, TO BE EVEN? I SAID, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE EVEN IF YOU KEEP USING DIFFERENT WORDS AND PUT YOURSELF IN DIFFERENT BOXES. I'M GOING TO START THE MOVEMENT, HASHTAG, NO LABELING AND SEE WHERE IT GOES. THE OTHER SITUATION IS, I WANT YOU TO KNOW, I COME FROM A WAR COUNTRY. I AM NOT JUST TALKING JUST OUT OF MY HAT. I'VE EXPERIENCED WAR, I'VE EXPERIENCED RACISM AND HARDSHIP. I AM VERY THANKFUL TO COME HERE AND WORK HARD AND ESTABLISH A LIVING. THE LAST THING, I HONESTLY THINK THAT COMMUNICATION ENDS THE WORDING FOR SOME OF THE COUNCIL, THROUGH CITY HALL, IT IS CAUSING DIVISIONS WITHIN OUR OWN COMMUNITY. WHO ARE WE? WHAT IS OUR EXPERIENCE? WHAT IS OUR BACKGROUND? COMMENT ON THE POLICING? OR ASK THE POLICE WHAT THEY'RE DOING, WHAT THEY'RE NOT DOING? I MEAN I AM AN IMMIGRANT; I WANT THE SAME THINGS YOU DO. STOP LABELING ME, STOP LABELING EVERYONE AND BY YOU ATTACKING THE POLICE, MY OPINION, SOME OF THE WORDS I HAVE HEARD IS, YOU ARE REALLY ENCOURAGING THE YOUNG LIVES TO DISRESPECT THE POLICE OFFICERS. WHEN I SEE A POLICE OFFICER IN A BLUE UNIFORM, THERE IS A RESPECT. WHEN I TALK TO MY TEACHER, I RESPECT BECAUSE I KNOW THEY HAVE AUTHORITY AND THAT THEY CAN INFLUENCE. SO, LETS JUST GET RID OF LABELING. I CHALLENGE A COUPLE OF YOU TO GET IN THE CAR AND WORK AS A POLICE OFFICER FOR A WEEK. THEN, I WILL SEE WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT POLICING. THANK YOU AND I'M VERY GLAD FOR THIS FORUM. AND I HOPE THAT THE CITY COUNCIL WILL NARROW THEIR SUBJECTS BECAUSE, IF YOU KEEP DEFINING US BY WORDS, IT IS GOING TO BACKFIRE. THANK YOU, ENJOY YOUR AFTERNOON.

**SKOT J.:** HI, EVERYBODY. THANK YOU FOR HOSTING THIS LISTENING SESSION. I AM FAIRLY NEW TO THE PALM SPRINGS AREA. I JUST MOVED HERE LAST YEAR AND I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER TO BE HERE. WITH THAT BEING SAID, AS A NEW RESIDENT, I CAN'T REALLY SPEAK TO THE HISTORY OF THE LOCAL SITUATION HERE THAT IS BEING DISCUSSED. BUT I WOULD JUST LIKE TO MAKE A COUPLE OF POINTS REALLY QUICKLY. ONE, ABOUT THE POLICING AND SUGGESTING THAT THEY BE DEFUNDED OR MAYBE LOOK AT DIFFERENT WAYS OF RESPONDING TO CALLS WITH MENTALLY ILL PEOPLE OR HOMELESS PEOPLE. I HAVE A SISTER WHO WAS FORMERLY A POLICE OFFICER IN ANOTHER STATE AND SHE SAID THAT THEY ACTUALLY HAD SOCIAL WORKERS THAT WENT ALONG WITH POLICE OFFICERS ON CALLS WHERE THERE WERE KNOWN PEOPLE WHO WERE EITHER, YOU KNOW, THEY OFTEN WERE ROUTINE CALLS FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE MENTALLY ILL OR HOMELESS. AND SO, THEY WOULD BRING SOCIAL WORKERS ALONG TO DE-ESCALATE THE SITUATION. THAT WAY, IT DID NOT REQUIRE ANY SORT OF WEAPONS BEING DRAWN ON BEHALF OF THE POLICE. BUT THE SITUATION IS THAT BECAUSE THE PERSON THEY ARE DEALING WITH CAN OFTEN HAVE A WEAPON OR BE A DANGER TO THEMSELVES OR OTHER PEOPLE, A SOCIAL WORKER IS ILL-EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH THAT ON THEIR OWN. SO, THIS CANNOT JUST BE AN EITHER-OR SITUATION. YOU CAN'T HAVE JUST SOCIAL WORKERS RESPONDING TO THESE TYPES OF CALLS. POLICE NEED TO BE THERE SORT OF AS A BACKUP. I THINK PEOPLE NEED TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT LOOKING AT THIS AS AN EITHER-OR SITUATION. AND THEN, ONE OTHER THING I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION IS THAT, YOU KNOW, I ALSO, YOU KNOW, CAN'T REALLY SPEAK TO RACISM, BEING A WHITE GUY BUT ALTHOUGH, I HAVE WITNESSED IT WITH MY FRIENDS. I GUESS I DON'T CONSIDER MYSELF A, QUOTE UNQUOTE, TYPICAL WHITE GUY IF YOU WILL. EVEN THOUGH I WAS BORN IN ARKANSAS, WHICH EVERYBODY CAN MAYBE INSERT THEIR OWN STEREOTYPE THERE AS THEY WISH. A VERY SMALL TOWN, LESS THAN 700 PEOPLE. AND THE ONLY BLACK MAN IN THE WHOLE TOWN WAS THE TOWN DOCTOR WHO BASICALLY GAVE BIRTH TO ME, I MEAN HE DIDN'T GIVE BIRTH TO ME BUT HE HELPED ME COME INTO THIS WORLD. OVER TWO MONTHS PREMATURE AND I WOULD HAVE DIED HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR HIM. HE WAS OBVIOUSLY THE MOST INTELLIGENT MAN IN TOWN. BUT, YOU KNOW, THAT SORT OF SENT ME ON A COURSE IN MY CHILDHOOD THAT EVEN FROM AN EARLY AGE, I TOOK AN INTEREST IN OTHER CULTURES AND OTHER TYPES OF PEOPLE BESIDES THE FAMILY THAT I GREW UP IN, EVEN THOUGH, I HAVE TO ADMIT, I WAS RAISED IN A VERY RACIST COMMUNITY THAT, YOU KNOW, IT WAS CLEARLY A RACIST ENVIRONMENT THAT I WAS RAISED. I WAS ABLE TO OVERCOME THAT BECAUSE MY INTEREST. I ACTUALLY WENT ON TO MAJOR IN ANTHROPOLOGY AND STUDIED CULTURES AROUND THE WORLD. AND EVENTUALLY, I WENT ON TO WORK AS A SOCIAL WORKER AT THE HOSPICE, AS A CAREGIVER AND I HAVE WORKED FOR, YOU KNOW, I TOOK CARE OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE AND I HELPED ABOUT 5,000 PEOPLE DIE, GO THROUGH THE DYING PROCESS. WHEN YOU ARE HOLDING SOMEBODY IN YOUR ARMS OR SOMEBODY IS IN NEED, THEY NEED FOOD OR SHELTER OR MEDICINE OR THEY ARE DYING AND YOU ARE HOLDING THEM IN YOUR ARMS, RACE IS THE LAST THING ON YOUR MIND. TRULY, AT LEAST IT WAS FOR ME. AND SO I WOULD JUST LIKE TO SAY THAT, YOU KNOW, I KNOW THAT IT IS A HOT-BUTTON TERM TO USE REVERSE RACISM. IT GETS A LOT OF PEOPLE FIRED OR CANCELED. I WOULD JUST LIKE TO SAY THAT I WOULD LIKE TO PUT IT OUT THERE, DON'T ASSUME BECAUSE I'M AN OLD WHITE GUY, I'M A WHITES SUPREMACIST AND I AM RACIST. ALL OF US NEED TO LOOK MORE THAN SKIN DEEP AND LOOK AT THE PERSON INSIDE. AND JUST AS A VERY RECENT ANECDOTE, YESTERDAY, I LIVE IN A MOBILE HOME PARK IN SOUTH PALM SPRINGS WITH ABOUT 200 UNITS HERE. MOSTLY WHITE. THERE ARE A FEW BLACK PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE. I DON'T KNOW IF THERE IS ANY LATINOS OR NOT. WE

HAD THE TREE TRIMMING CREWS COME THROUGH AS THEY DO EVERY YEAR, APPARENTLY, TO TRIM THE PALM TREES. YOU KNOW, LATINO MEN WORKING ON THIS TREE TRIMMING CREW. AND WHEN THEY CAME TO MY HOUSE, MY HOME, I SET OUT AN ICE CHEST OF ICE, SOME ICED TEA AND SOME WATER AND A BIG BOWL OF SOME SLICED WATERMELON. AND, YOU KNOW, IT WAS JUST YOU COULD SEE A SMILE ON THEIR FACES, EVEN THOUGH EVERYONE WAS WEARING MASKS AND THEY WERE ALL WEARING MASKS. AND YOU COULD TELL THAT JUST, THAT KIND GESTURE MEANT SO MUCH TO THEM. I CAN ALMOST GUARANTEE YOU THAT I AM THE ONLY PERSON IN THIS WHOLE PARK OF 200 PEOPLE THAT MADE SOME SORT OF GESTURE FOR PEOPLE WORKING IN 110 DEGREE HEAT TRIMMING THEIR STUPID PALM TREES. I WOULD LIKE TO END ON THE NOTE THAT, I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT EACH ONE OF US COULD BE THE CHANGE WE WANT TO SEE IN THE WORLD. THANK YOU.

**ABIGAIL WINSTON:** HI. I AM NEW TO PALM SPRINGS. SO, I CANNOT SPEAK TO THE HISTORY. I AM WHITE, SO I CAN'T SPEAK TO HOW THE MINORITY COMMUNITY FEELS HERE BUT I HAVE HEARD A LOT OR SOME OF HOW THEY FEEL, NOT A LOT ACTUALLY, ITS BEEN MOSTLY I THINK THE MAJORITY WHITE COMMUNITY THAT HAS BEEN SPEAKING. BUT I JUST WANT TO SAY WHAT I HAVE HEARD IS THAT THEY FEEL AFRAID OF THE POLICE AND MINIMIZED IN THE COMMUNITY. AND I APPRECIATE THE CITY COUNCIL DOING WHAT THEY HAVE DONE AND HAVING THIS LISTENING SESSION. BUT I THINK, WE AS PEOPLE IN AMERICA NEED TO START TO REFLECT ON THE FACT THAT, YOU KNOW, RACISM MAKES US FEEL BAD, ESPECIALLY WHITE PEOPLE THAT WE COULD BE RACIST. BUT THE PROBLEM IS NOT US, INDIVIDUALLY. RACISM EXISTS IN THE SYSTEMS. THIS IS SOMETHING THAT, HOPEFULLY THIS CITY COUNCIL CAN ADDRESS IN A MORE SPECIFIC WAY, HOPEFULLY. AND SO, I DON'T KNOW HOW, I DON'T KNOW THE SOLUTION. BUT I THINK THAT INVITING THOSE PEOPLE WHO FEEL DISENFRANCHISED AND WHO FEEL AFRAID OF THE POLICE INTO THE CONVERSATION AND REALLY DIGGING INTO WHAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE IS WHERE WE SHOULD BEGIN. AND THEN, AS FAR AS US WHITE PEOPLE, WHAT WE SHOULD BE DOING IS UNDERSTANDING THAT WE ARE ALL A PART OF THIS. AGAIN, THIS STATUE SEEMS TO BE A MINOR ISSUE. BUT ACTUALLY, NOT RECOGNIZING WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST AND NOT APOLOGIZING FOR IT AND NOT BEING ABLE TO MOVE FORWARD FROM THERE, I THINK, IF YOU WERE THE PERSON THAT WAS AFFECTED, YOU WOULDN'T THINK IT WAS MINOR. AND SO THAT IS SOMETHING ALSO THAT WE CAN ALL DO. AND I WOULD SUGGEST WE DO IT. I LIKE PALM SPRINGS. I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE VERY LONG. I WANT TO BE A PART OF THE COMMUNITY BUT I WANT TO FEEL LIKE WE ARE ALL THE SAME COMMUNITY. AND I THINK WE HAVE TO DO THAT TOGETHER. THAT IS ALL.

**DEB SATHER:** HI, MY NAME IS DEB. I'M A LONGTIME RESIDENT OF THE PALM SPRINGS AREA. I DID LIVE IN CATHEDRAL CITY FOR A SHORT TIME. BUT I HAVE LIVED IN PALM SPRINGS FOR THE MAJORITY OF MY 27 YEARS HERE. I DO WORK FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND I HAVE HAD MULTIPLE INTERACTIONS WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. ALL OF WHICH HAVE BEEN MOSTLY POSITIVE. I HAVE WORKED WITH SOME STUDENTS WHO HAVE EMOTIONAL DISABILITIES THAT ARE ABUSIVE TO THE SCHOOL STAFF AND I HAVE ALWAYS SEEN POSITIVE INTERACTIONS BETWEEN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE STUDENTS THAT WERE IN NEED. THESE STUDENTS NEEDED A LOT OF HELP AND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT WAS VERY UNDERSTANDING. I TOTALLY SUPPORT OUR PALM SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT AND BELIEVE THAT MAYBE THEY DO NEED SOME ADDITIONAL SUPPORT THROUGH THE CITY COUNCIL. IN THE AREAS OF ADDITIONAL STAFFING, NOT CUTTING OF POSITIONS, NOT REMOVAL

OF POSITIONS OR REMOVAL OF FUNDING, BUT MAYBE SOME ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO INCREASE STAFFING IN THE AREAS OF SOCIAL WORKERS AND INSTEAD OF REMOVING WHAT WE ALREADY HAVE. LET'S ADD TO IT, LET'S BUILD AND PROVIDE THAT ADDITIONAL SUPPORT TO THE CITIZENS. MY OTHER CONCERN, THAT I CAN DRIVE DOWN THE STREET, TWO BLOCKS FROM MY HOME. I LIVE IN A GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD. I LOVE IT. IT IS MULTICULTURAL. IT IS MULTIRACIAL AND ABSOLUTELY LOVE THIS NEIGHBORHOOD BUT I CAN GO TWO BLOCKS AWAY AND FIND SOMEBODY SMOKING THEIR CRACK PIPE OR NOT JUST CASUAL USE OF MARIJUANA BUT HARD DRUGS. THOSE POLICE NEED TO BE OUT THERE, BEING SUPPORTED AND NOT CUT DOWN BY OTHER CITIZENS OR CITY COUNCILMEMBERS. I STRONGLY SUPPORT THEM. I BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE DOING A FINE JOB. THAT IS ALL I HAVE TO SAY, THANK YOU.

**JOY BROWN MEREDITH:** GOOD AFTERNOON, EVERYONE. MY NAME IS JOY BROWN MEREDITH. I MOVED HERE TO PALM SPRINGS IN 1978. I LOVE LIVING IN THIS COMMUNITY. IN 1997, I JOINED THE POLICE ADVISORY BOARD. I AM STILL ON THE BOARD WITH A LOT OF OTHER GREAT COMMUNITY MEMBERS THAT REPRESENT MANY DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES. I ALSO AM THE MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER AND MOTHER-IN-LAW OF SOME PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY THAT I HAVE SEEN WITH MY OWN EYES, THAT THEY HAVE BEEN TREATED DIFFERENTLY THAN I HAVE BEEN TREATED. MY GRANDDAUGHTER RECENTLY, WHO IS BIRACIAL, SHE WAS WITH HER MAN AND TWO CHILDREN IN THE CAR AND THEY WERE PULLED OVER BECAUSE OF A TAILLIGHT AND THEY WANTED THE IDENTIFICATION OF HER MAN IN THE BACKSEAT. HE WAS A BLACK MAN. SHE CALLED ME DURING THIS POLICE STOP AND SHE WAS HORRIFIED. SHE WAS SO FRIGHTENED AND I WAS VERY SAD TO HEAR THAT TONE IN HER VOICE. SHE HAD TO HAVE THAT KIND OF FEAR RIGHT THERE. SHE WAS JUST LEAVING WORK AT JOY OF LIFE AND THEY WANTED TO KNOW WHAT SHE WAS DOING THERE. WHAT WAS SHE DOING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD? IT TURNED OUT OKAY, SHE WENT HOME. MY SON-IN-LAW, HE WAS PULLED OVER LAST YEAR. THIS WAS NEAR TARGET. THEY SAID THAT HE HAD A DIM TAILLIGHT, ALSO, AN AFRICAN AMERICAN MAN. SOMEBODY THAT I TRUST MY LIFE WITH, BY THE WAY, AND, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO VIOLENCE INVOLVED, IT WAS A VERY HORRIFYING EXPERIENCE THERE AS WELL. NOW, I AM A GREAT SUPPORTER OF THE PALM SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT. BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THERE AREN'T INSTANCES WHERE PEOPLE ARE TREATED DIFFERENTLY BECAUSE OF THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN. AND I WANT TO TELL YOU THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO SUPPORT BLACK LIVES MATTER AND TO SUPPORT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. THESE DO NOT HAVE TO BE THINGS THAT ARE SEPARATE FROM EACH OTHER. WE NEED TO LOOK DEEPER AND MAKE SURE THAT EVERYBODY IS BEING TREATED FAIRLY. IT SHOULD NOT MATTER WHAT THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN IS AND I THINK THAT IS A PRETTY JUVENILE STATEMENT FOR ME TO EVEN MAKE. OF COURSE, THAT SHOULDN'T MATTER. BUT IT DOES. WHEN I GO TO THE DESERT HIGHLAND COMMUNITY'S NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING AND I AM HEARING A MAN TELL ME, OR TALK ABOUT THAT HE HAD TO CALL AN AMBULANCE FOR HIS FATHER BECAUSE HIS FATHER FELL AND HIT HIS HEAD. THEN HE WAITED, HE LOOKED OUTSIDE. HE COULD SEE THE AMBULANCE DOWN THE STREET. BUT THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS, THE AMBULANCE DOES NOT COME THERE WITHOUT A POLICE ESCORT. NOW, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU BUT THAT IS NOT OKAY. I REALIZED THAT THAT NEIGHBORHOOD MAY BE VIEWED UPON AS A CRIME NEIGHBORHOOD BUT THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS, IF YOU WANT TO SEE A REAL COMMUNITY, YOU GO TO DESERT HIGHLAND. BECAUSE DESERT HIGHLAND IS WHERE NEIGHBOR STICKS UP FOR NEIGHBOR. SO SOMETIMES, DO SOME THINGS HAPPEN THAT THE POLICE WANT MORE INFORMATION? YES. IS THAT NEIGHBORHOOD GONNA

GIVE IT UP? PROBABLY NOT. THEY'RE GOING TO DEAL WITH IT INTERNALLY BECAUSE THIS IS A NEIGHBORHOOD THAT KNOWS ITS NEIGHBORS, THEY KNOW THE GOOD EGGS AND THE SMELLY, ROTTEN ONES. AND THEY ARE GOING TO HANDLE IT. BECAUSE THEY TRUST EACH OTHER. BECAUSE THEY LOVE EACH OTHER. AND THAT IS THE FACT OF IT. I WISH MY NEIGHBORHOOD WAS AS LOVING AND CARING AS THE DESERT HIGHLAND NEIGHBORHOOD IS FOR ITS NEIGHBORS. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE NOT EXPERIENCED IT, I REALLY SUGGEST THAT YOU DO. THE JAMES O. JESSE CENTER THERE, I AM SO PROUD WHEN I WAS ON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, THAT WE MADE SURE THAT THAT CENTER BECAME SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL AND MY NAME IS ON THE PLAQUE OUTSIDE OF THERE. AND EVERY TIME I GO THERE, I COULDN'T FEEL PROUDER TO BE A PART OF THAT. AND GRACE, I WANT TO TELL YOU SOMETHING, YOU ARE DOING A GREAT JOB. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU BEFORE. BUT I KNOW YOU NOW AND I SEE YOUR HEART, GIRL. YOU ARE DIFFERENT. YOU ARE CERTAINLY ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE THAT HAS NOT BEEN A POLITICIAN BUT YOU JUST COME IN, LOVING THE COMMUNITY. AND I KNOW THE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY SUPPORT YOU AND WHAT YOU ARE REPRESENTING THERE. AND SO I JUST WANT TO REALLY SAY, I THINK IT IS JUST SO IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE CAN SUPPORT THE POLICE AND SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY BUT WE NEED TO TAKE A DEEPER LOOK AND MAKE SURE THERE ARE NO ROTTEN EGGS IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT THAT ARE TREATING BLACK PEOPLE OR OTHER PEOPLE OF COLOR OR TRANSGENDER PEOPLE OR GAY PEOPLE, ANY DIFFERENTLY THAN THEY WOULD TREAT ANYBODY ELSE AND THAT IS THE CRUX OF THE PROBLEM AND I AM HERE TO TELL YOU, WHATEVER I CAN DO TO HELP, I WILL. JUST LIKE I'VE ALWAYS HAD. AND I'M HERE TO TELL YOU THAT ALL OF MY CHILDREN HAVE MARRIED INTO INTERRACIAL FAMILIES. ALL OF MY GRANDCHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN ARE BIRACIAL. WHEN YOU LIVE WITH IT, IT IS DIFFERENT THAN JUST WATCHING IT IN THE NEWS. AND I JUST WANT TO TELL YOU, I LOVE YOU VERY MUCH. JANEL, I LOVE YOU. YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL. IT IS NICE TO SEE YOU HERE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR GIVING ME THIS TIME TO SPEAK. WE CAN DO IT. BECAUSE WE ARE PALM SPRINGS AND DON'T LET ANYBODY TELL YOU DIFFERENT. THANK YOU SO MUCH.

**NAOMI SOTO:** HI, MY NAME IS NAOMI SOTO, I AM A DISTRICT FOUR RESIDENT, I AM IN THE SONORA SUNRISE NEIGHBORHOOD. AND I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE SOME THOUGHTS ON POLICING AND DISCRIMINATION AND JUST THAT WE ARE DOING THIS AND AS A RESIDENT OF THE CITY, AND DEFINITELY AS AN OVERALL SUPPORTER OF THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT. THIS MOMENT WE ARE EXPERIENCING AND THE SENTIMENTS, THEY HAVE BEEN BUBBLING FOR A LONG, LONG TIME. AND I JUST WANT TO PUT A LITTLE BIT OF BIG PICTURE HOW I SEE OR WHAT I AM NOTICING. WE ARE IN A PUBLIC HEALTH, RACIAL AND ECONOMIC RECKONING ALL AT THE SAME TIME. AND PALM SPRINGS IS LIKE MOST CITIES IN AMERICA RIGHT NOW, EXPERIENCING THIS AT THE SAME TIME , BUT I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY SOME MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ARE SO RETICENT TO EXAMINE THE POLICE BUDGET AND ITS POLICIES WHEN WE ARE EXPERIENCING SUCH A DIRE FISCAL EMERGENCY AND OUR CITY RESERVES HAVE BEEN REALLY CENTRALLY RUNNING ON FUMES RIGHT NOW. THAT IS KIND OF WHAT I AM FEELING BUT THAT'S ACTUALLY NOT WHAT I WANT TO TALK ABOUT. I JUST WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE PROCESS OVERALL. THAT I FIND VERY INTERESTING. WHILE IT IS SO VALUABLE AND SO GREAT THE COUNCIL IS LISTENING TO RESIDENTS, PARTICULARLY THE EXPERIENCE OF BLACK RESIDENTS AND PEOPLE OF COLOR, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT TO HEAR ANY POLICE CRITICISM OR JUST AN EXAMINATION OF ITS BUDGET , THE COUNCIL IS EXPECTING RESIDENTS TO TELL THEM THAT RACISM

IS REAL IN THE CITY. AND BEFORE WE CAN EVEN HAVE A CONVERSATION ON 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY POLICING, OUR CITY NEEDS TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES WITH THE POLICE, ALMOST BEING RETRAUMATIZED AND RE-TELLING THEIR STORIES WITH POLICE AND DISCRIMINATION. AND I WONDER IF THIS IS EXPECTED ON OTHER ISSUES. RIGHT? IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IF SOMETHING COMES UP AT ONE-PS THEN COUNCILMEMBERS TAKE ACTION ON IT. IF THERE'S ISSUES AROUND CANNABIS BUSINESSES, OR PRIORITIES FOR DOWNTOWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, OR THE MAIN STREET GROUP BRINGS IT UP AND ACTION IS TAKEN. THAT IS THE POWER OF THESE LITTLE GROUPS OF PEOPLE WHO KNOW THE ISSUES SO, SO WELL. BUT WHEN IT COMES TO BLACK RESIDENTS AND PEOPLE OF COLOR RAISING ISSUES AROUND POLICE AND DISCRIMINATION, CONCERNS ABOUT THE BUDGET, THE BURDEN OF PROOF JUST SEEMS SO MUCH HIGHER. AND I WOULD ASK MY FELLOW RESIDENTS TO THINK ABOUT WHY THIS IS EXPECTED. I WOULD ASK OUR CITY COUNCILMEMBERS TO THINK ABOUT, WHY NOT JUST HEARING FROM DESERT HIGHLAND RESIDENTS FIRST-HAND IN THEIR OWN MEETINGS, HASN'T BEEN ENOUGH OF A FERVOR TO KIND OF MOVE SOME ACTION AND EXAMINATION ON THE POLICE BUDGET. WHY HAVEN'T THE STORIES THAT HAVE BEEN TOLD ALREADY BEEN ENOUGH TO MOVE ANY ACTION? WE HAVE MOMENTUM RIGHT NOW AND I AM SO GLAD WE ARE AS A CITY, ALL KIND OF COMING TOGETHER, BUT WHEN THE STORIES NEED TO BE SO MUCH LOUDER AND ALL IN UNISON, WHEN IT IS AN ISSUE ON RACE, WHEN IT IS NOT EXPECTED ON OTHER ISSUES. IT FEELS VERY UNCOMFORTABLE TO ME. AND THE ASK FEELS VERY UNCOMFORTABLE TO ME. SO THAT IS KIND OF WHAT I WANTED TO RAISE AND THAT IS JUST WHAT I WANTED TO SHARE. AND THAT IS MY PUBLIC COMMENT.

**BRENDAN STEIDLE:** YES, MR. MAYOR, COUNCIL MEMBERS, I WANT TO START OFF BY SAYING THAT I LIVE AND WORK HERE IN PALM SPRINGS, I HAVE WORKED HERE FOR SEVEN YEARS AND I AM A HOMEOWNER IN PALM SPRINGS. MY WIFE AND I ARE EXPECTING A BABY AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO BEING PARENTS IN THIS TOWN. WE BOTH HAVE DEGREES IN PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC POLICY AND HAVE LOOKED VERY CLOSELY AT THE ISSUES OF POLICING HERE IN OUR CITY. I HAVE HAD A FEW BRIEF OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET WITH AND WORK WITH CHIEF REYES OVER THE YEARS AND TO WATCH HIS ANNUAL PRESENTATIONS ON THE WORK OF THE POLICE FORCE. I HAVE GREAT RESPECT FOR HIM AND HIS LEADERSHIP. AT THE SAME TIME, I HAVE SPENT MANY HOURS LOOKING CLOSELY AT THE PALM SPRINGS BUDGET AND THE ALLOCATIONS THAT HAVE GONE TO POLICING. I HAVE ALSO SPENT HOURS ANALYZING AND COMPARING OUR BUDGET TO THE BUDGETS OF OTHER CITIES AND THE NATION OVERALL. I HAVE GROWN CONCERNED THAT OUR CITY, ESPECIALLY IN A TIME OF BUDGET CRISIS, IS SPENDING FAR MORE ON POLICING THAN IT SHOULD. WE SPEND ALMOST TWICE AS MUCH AS THE NATIONAL AVERAGE AND ABOUT 40% MORE THAN OUR STATE AVERAGE HERE IN CALIFORNIA. I TRIED TO UNDERSTAND WHY THIS IS, AND IF OTHER CITIES DO THE SAME, AND FOR WHAT REASON? I HAVE YET TO FIND A MEANINGFUL EXPLANATION FOR WHY PALM SPRINGS NEEDS TO SPEND SO MUCH MORE THAN OTHER CITIES ON POLICING. IT IS NOT ABOUT OUR SEASONAL VISITORS, BECAUSE OTHER CITIES WITH SEASONAL VISITORS DO NOT SPEND THE WAY WE DO. IT IS NOT BECAUSE OF OUR SIZE, BECAUSE EVERY CITY OF OUR SIZE DOES NOT SPEND THE WAY WE DO. IT IS NOT BECAUSE OF BEING A TOURIST TOWN, BECAUSE OTHER TOURIST DESTINATIONS DO NOT SPEND THE WAY WE DO. WE OVERSPEND. AND THAT IS A PROBLEM, BECAUSE WE HAVE LIMITED RESOURCES IN THIS CITY. WE OVERSPEND AND THAT IS A PROBLEM BECAUSE POLICE, WHETHER THEY ARE RESPONDING TO A CRITICAL PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUE OR BEING CALLED ON FOR QUALITY-OF-LIFE ISSUES, WHICH WE HAVE

ALMOST HALF OF OUR CALLS FOR SERVICE ARE RELATED TO THAT. POLICING WHERE POLICING IS NOT REQUIRED OR ISN'T THE BEST SOLUTION CAN LEAD TO HIGH STAKES SITUATIONS BECOME DANGEROUS FOR OUR CITIZENS, FOR OUR VISITORS, OUR TOURISTS, AND FOR OUR POLICE THEMSELVES. IT CAN ALSO LEAD TO ABUSE. WE OVERSPEND AND I WANT TO KNOW WHY. I WANT TO HEAR FROM OUR CITY LEADERS WHY OUR CITY MUST SPEND MORE ON POLICING THAN OTHER CITIES. MAKE THE CASE, DEFEND YOUR ARGUMENTS AND YOUR POSITION. PLEASE LOOK AT THE NUMBERS HONESTLY AND OPENLY AND IF YOU BELIEVE WE NEED TO SPEND TWICE AS MUCH OF THE NATIONAL AVERAGE, MAKE YOUR CASE. IF YOU BELIEVE WE NEED TO SPEND 40% MORE THAN THE STATE AVERAGE, MAKE YOUR CASE. IF YOU BELIEVE WE NEED TO SPEND OVER \$200,000 PER PERSON WITHIN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, MAKE YOUR CASE. LISA MIDDLETON, PLEASE MAKE YOUR CASE. DENNIS WOODS, PLEASE MAKE YOUR CASE. MAYOR KORS, PLEASE LOOK HONESTLY AT THE NUMBERS AND MAKE YOUR CASE. IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO SAY WE HAVE A LOT OF VISITORS. HOW MANY VISITORS? FOR HOW LONG? HOW DOES THIS COMPARE WITH OTHER CITIES? WHAT IS THE REASONING, WHERE IS THE SCRUTINY? THANK YOU, GRACE AND THANK YOU CHRISTY FOR BEING WILLING TO LOOK AT THESE NUMBERS AND TO LISTEN TO THESE VOICES TODAY. VOICES THAT AREN'T JUST TALKING ABOUT BUDGET AND NUMBERS LIKE I AM, BUT WHO ARE TALKING ABOUT ISSUES LIKE RACE AND ABUSE THAT ARISE FROM THE CITY COUNCIL'S FUNDING OF POLICE. AS CITY COUNCIL, THE POLICE ARE ALL OF YOUR RESPONSIBILITY. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR FUNDING AND YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR CONDUCT. THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TODAY, BUT IT CANNOT STOP HERE. WE NEED ACTION. LOOK TODAY AT WHY OUR BUDGET IS HIGHER THAN OTHER CITIES AND REALLY TRY TO FIND IF THERE ARE LEGITIMATE REASONS WHY THAT NEEDS TO STAY THE CASE. YOU HAVE TO REAUTHORIZE THAT BUDGET NEXT MONTH AND THE MONTH AFTER THAT AND THE MONTH AFTER THAT, WHAT CAN YOU DO NOW TO BRING OUR BUDGET MORE IN ALIGNMENT SO THAT OUR SPENDING ON POLICE IS NOT SUCH AN OUTLIER? WHAT CAN YOU DO NOW SO THAT WE CAN ADDRESS PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES IN OUR CITY USING OTHER BEST PRACTICES? POLICE ARE NOT THE BEST SOLUTION TO HOMELESSNESS, WE KNOW THAT. POLICE AREN'T THE BEST SOLUTION TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUES. POLICE AREN'T THE BEST SOLUTION FOR QUALITY-OF-LIFE CALLS. THEY ARE KEY TO RESPONDING TO CRITICAL PUBLIC SAFETY PROBLEMS. BUT THEY ARE NOT THE ONLY SOLUTION. PLEASE BE INNOVATIVE. PLEASE BE LEADING VOICES FOR CHANGE ON THIS AS YOU HAVE BEEN FOR LGBTQ RIGHTS. AS YOU HAVE BEEN FOR A WHOLE NUMBER OF ISSUES THAT MAKES PALM SPRINGS SUCH A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE. WE HAVE THE CAPACITY TO BE GREAT ON THIS TOO. AND WITH THE POLICE CHIEF LIKE CHIEF REYES, I WOULD HOPE YOU WOULD FIND A WILLING PARTNER IN REFORM THAT CAN MAKE OUR CITY SAFER FOR EVERYONE. THANK YOU FOR LISTENING, PLEASE TAKE ACTION ON WHAT YOU HEAR TODAY. THANKS.

**JUAN ESPINOZA:** HI, EVERYONE. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR MAKING THE TIME AND THE SPACE FOR US TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK AND THANK YOU FOR EVERYONE WHO STUCK AROUND. I KNOW IT IS PAST 1:00 ON A SATURDAY AND WE WOULD ALL LIKE TO HAVE OUR SATURDAY SO I REALLY APPRECIATE THE COUNCIL PUTTING THIS TOGETHER AND PUTTING IN THE EFFORT AND THE TIME TO SUPPORT THIS VERY IMPORTANT FORUM AND TIME. I WANT TO SAY I GREW UP IN PALM SPRINGS, I WENT TO CAHUILLA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, RAYMOND CREE MIDDLE SCHOOL, PALM SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL. AND I AM NOW AT HARVARD LAW SCHOOL. PRECISELY BECAUSE OF THE MANY ISSUES THAT I LIVED AND SAW AND EXPERIENCED IN PALM SPRINGS. MY MOM CLEANS HOUSES, MY DAD IS A WAITER,

BOTH OF THEM HAVE BEEN IN THE SERVICE INDUSTRY SINCE THE 70S IN PALM SPRINGS. AND I HAVE VERY VIVID MEMORIES OF MY MOM COMING HOME CRYING BECAUSE SHE CLEANED HOUSES FOR SOMEONE THAT WAS MAD THAT SHE WAS TAKING A BREAK TO HAVE A SANDWICH. OR THAT MY DAD IS BEING HARASSED BY THE POLICE OR THAT HE WAS FOLLOWED BECAUSE HE WAS IN AN OLD BEAT UP TRUCK OR OLD BEAT UP CAR. AND ALL OF THESE INCIDENTS HAVE BEEN NOT AN EXCEPTION BUT RATHER THE NORM IN PALM SPRINGS. I MYSELF WAS A WAITER AND BUSBOY AT MANY RESTAURANTS IN PALM SPRINGS, WHERE IN SOME OF THEM, WHICH I'M SURE MANY OF THE CITY COUNCILS FREQUENT OFTEN, BUSBOYS THAT WERE MEXICAN WERE CALLED COCKROACHES, AND THERE WERE MANY RACIAL SLURS USED FOR THE MEXICAN SERVICE STAFF. AND IF YOU EVER GO TO A RESTAURANT IN PALM SPRINGS, YOU KNOW THAT THE KITCHEN IS USUALLY FULL OF MEXICAN IMMIGRANTS THAT ARE DOING THE HARD WORK AND YOU SEE MEXICAN IMMIGRANTS DOING THE LANDSCAPING, THEY ARE BUILDING OUR CITIES, THEY ARE LANDSCAPING, EVERYTHING YOU SEE, THE BEAUTY IN THE DESERT, IS BUILT BY THESE COMMUNITIES, AND YET WE HAVE INCIDENTS SUCH AS THIS PERSON THAT HAS NOW GONE VIRAL WHO APPROACHES THEM AND ATTACKS IMMIGRANTS, ASKING THEM FOR THEIR PAPERS. AND THAT IS NOT SOMETHING THAT IS SURPRISING FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME BECAUSE I GREW UP, EVEN AT PALM SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL, WHERE WHEN WE WERE FIGHTING FOR IMMIGRANTS, PEOPLE WERE CALLING ME A WET BACK AT PALM SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL, AND SO I THINK, I AM REALLY UPSET TO HEAR THAT SOME OF THE COMMENTS ARE SAYING THAT WE ARE ON A BANDWAGON OR THAT THIS IS JUST AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO ADDRESS RACISM WHEN SOME OF US HAVE BUILT OUR ENTIRE LIVES AROUND FIGHTING THESE ISSUES. AND I HAVE SEEN THIS IN SO MANY WAYS, AND I THINK I WILL GET TO THE POLICE IN A MOMENT, BUT I THINK WE NEED TO ADDRESS THE WAY THAT THIS PERMEATES SO MANY ASPECTS OF THE CITY AND ADDRESS THE FACT THAT FOR EXAMPLE, BEING AT PALM SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL, WHERE IT WAS 50% LATINO, I WAS ONE OF LIKE THREE LATINOS IN THE AP AND ADVANCED CLASSES. WHY AREN'T WE ADDRESSING THOSE DISPARITIES? I HAD TO FIGHT TOOTH AND NAIL, EVEN TO GET INTO ADVANCED CLASSES, WHEN I HAVE THE TESTING SCORES, I WAS WRONGFULLY PUT IN LOWER LEVEL CLASSES AND I HAD TO GO TO ADMINISTRATION. HAD I NOT HAD THE WILL TO DO THAT, I WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN TRACKED INTO A TRACK THAT WOULD LEAD ME TO COLLEGE. AND THERE ARE SO MANY OF THOSE DISPARITIES WITH COUNSELORS PUSHING STUDENTS OF COLOR TO THE SIDE, WITH THE FACT THAT THE SCHOOL IMPRISONMENT PIPELINE IS REAL AND EXISTING REALITY AND FOR THOSE THAT ARE NOT FAMILIAR, I DID THAT RESEARCH LATER ON IN COLLEGE AND I WROTE AN OP-ED ABOUT IT IN 2012, SO THAT WAS EIGHT YEARS AGO. AND IT JUST LOOKS AT THE WAY THAT BLACK AND LATINO STUDENTS ARE FUNNELED INTO SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS AND THEN END UP IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM BECAUSE WE FUNNELED THEM THERE. AND THAT IS PRECISELY WHY THERE IS AN ISSUE WITH HAVING SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS. THE FACT THAT THE PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT SPENDS \$645,000 ON SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS, IN PALM SPRINGS ALONE, THE PALM SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT GETS \$150,000 DOLLARS FOR STAFFING A POLICE OFFICER AT THE HIGH SCHOOL. AND I THINK IT IS JUST UNFORTUNATE THAT STUDENTS HAVE TO INTERACT WITH POLICE OFFICERS BEFORE THEY EVEN GET TO SEE WHAT A COLLEGE LOOKS LIKE. AND I THINK THAT IS WRONG. AND THAT SENDS THE WRONG MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY AND I AM SURE YOU WOULD NOT SEE POLICE OFFICERS STATIONED AT MOSTLY WHITE, PRIVATE SCHOOLS, BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT IS NOT SOMETHING THAT IS A HEALTHY THING FOR CHILDREN. AND SO, I THINK IT IS JUST COMPLETELY OUTRAGEOUS, THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT WE SPEND ON POLICE

OFFICERS AND THAT WE PUT THEM IN SCHOOLS. AND THE REASON I GIVE ALL OF THIS BACKGROUND IS BECAUSE THIS IS SUCH AN ENTRENCHED ISSUE AND IT IS COMPLICATED AND THERE ARE SO MANY FACTORS OF THIS AND THE CITY JUST REFUSES, OR HAS REFUSED FOR THE LONGEST TIME, AND I REALLY AM THANKFUL FOR THE MORE RECENT RESPONSE THAT WE HAVE HAD, AND THAT IS THANKS TO NEW COUNCILMEMBERS, THAT, LIKE GRACE AND CHRISTY WHO HAVE BEEN SO, SO, SO SUPPORTIVE OF OUR COMMUNITY. IT IS INCREDIBLE TO FINALLY SEE SOME RESPONSE AND TO THOSE OF YOU THAT ARE NOT LISTENING OR THAT ARE HESITANT AND WANT TO HOLD ONTO THE OLDER IDEAS OF WHAT IT MEANS TO RUN A CITY, I BEG YOU AND I ASK YOU IN GOOD FAITH THAT YOU ACTUALLY PAY ATTENTION TO THE ISSUES THAT ARE COMING UP. I THINK THAT THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS THAT I CAN DESCRIBE THE WAYS IN WHICH I HAVE EXPERIENCED RACISM IN PALM SPRINGS, BUT I THINK LOOKING AT THE POLICE AND LOOKING AT WHAT IS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW WITH COVID, IT IS EXTREMELY AGGRAVATING AND EXTREMELY DISTRESSING TO SEE HOW THIS IS DECIMATING THE BLACK AND LATINO COMMUNITY. AND IF YOU LOOK AT THE NUMBERS IN PALM SPRINGS, AND I KNOW THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE TALKED ABOUT WHERE THEY LIVE IN THE DESERT BUT I THINK WE NEED TO RETHINK THE WAY THAT WE ADDRESS HOW INTERCONNECTED THE VALLEY IS AND THE FACT THAT BLACK AND LATINO WORKERS ARE A PART OF PALM SPRINGS AND WORKING FOR HOTELS AND BEING AFFECTED AND BEING RISKED DUE TO THE FACT THAT WE HAVE REOPENED TOO EARLY AND WE HAVE HAD IRRESPONSIBLE COUNTY POLICIES, AND SO IF YOU LOOK AT THE NUMBERS, THERE IS LIKE DOUBLE, TRIPLE NUMBERS IN MOSTLY LATINOS CITIES IN THE DESERT WHERE IF YOU LOOK AT PALM SPRINGS AND WHITE CITIES, THEN THE NUMBERS ARE MUCH, MUCH LESS. IT IS SAD TO SEE HOW BAD THAT IS, AND ONE OF THOSE THINGS I HAVE HEARD IS THAT, OH, LATINOS ARE NOT PAYING ATTENTION BUT I THINK THAT WE NEED TO REALLY LOOK AT WHO IS ACTUALLY BEING EXPOSED AND THE FACT THAT WE LIVE IN MORE CONDENSED SPACES, THAT WE HAVE BIGGER FAMILIES, IF YOU LOOK AT THE AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE IN PALM SPRINGS, IT IS TWO PEOPLE. BUT THE AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE IN COACHELLA AND INDIO IS FOUR PEOPLE. THAT IS DOUBLE. THEN YOU DIRECTLY SEE THAT IS WHY PARTIALLY THERE ARE DOUBLE THE CASES THERE, BECAUSE WHEN LATINO COMMUNITIES ARE IMPACTED, THE IMPACT IS FAR GREATER BECAUSE OF THE WAY IN WHICH WE ARE EXPOSED. AND THAT IS A SYSTEMIC ISSUE, THAT IS A PRECISE EXAMPLE OF SYSTEMIC RACISM. AND SOMETHING THAT WE NEED TO ADDRESS. OKAY, I'M GOING TO CLOSE OFF BY SAYING THAT I AM HERE FIRST AND FOREMOST TO BE IN SOLIDARITY WITH BLACK PEOPLE AND IN THIS MOMENT, THAT WE SHOULD HAVE A RECKONING WITH THE WAY THAT WE ADDRESS POLICE AND I HAD TWO BLACK WOMEN AS MY ENGLISH TEACHERS IN HIGH SCHOOL, MS. STAGG AND MISS HAWKINS, WHO SET ME UP FOR SUCCESS AND HAVE REALLY INFORMED MY PERSPECTIVE, AND I AM SO THANKFUL FOR THEM, AND I REALLY WANT TO BE HERE FOR THE BLACK COMMUNITY AND SAY THAT I THINK WE SHOULD BE DOING A LOT MORE TO SHIFT RESOURCES AWAY FROM THE POLICE AND TOWARD MENTAL HEALTH TOWARD COMMUNITY SERVICES, TOWARD HEALTHCARE, AND THAT IS WHAT PUBLIC SAFETY MEANS AND SHOULD LOOK LIKE DURING THIS PANDEMIC AND THIS CRISIS. AND I THINK WE CAN DO MUCH, MUCH BETTER AS A CITY. THANK YOU.

**JOANNE CRAWFORD:** THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME. CONCERNING THE BODY CAMERA, WHICH TOOK US EIGHT YEARS TO GET. IF THE POLICE DO NOT HAVE THEIR BODY CAMERAS ON, THEY SHOULD BE SUSPENDED WITHOUT PAY FOR THREE DAYS. THEY CANNOT MAKE AN ARREST WITHOUT THEIR BODY CAMERA ON. AND IF PALM SPRINGS POLICE HAVE A BAD APPLE IN THERE ON THE FORCE, THEY SHOULD REMOVE HIM. WE HAVE A BEAUTIFUL POLICE DEPARTMENT; WE DO NOT NEED ONE BAD APPLE TO SPOIL THE WHOLE BALE. THANK YOU.

**MELISSA DOLORES:** HELLO, MAYOR, MAYOR PRO TEM, AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR PUTTING US ON TODAY, I REALLY APPRECIATE IT. I KNOW IT IS A TOUGH TIME. MY NAME IS MELISSA DOLORES, I AM BORN AND RAISED HERE IN THE NORTH SIDE OF PALM SPRINGS AND I RECENTLY MOVED BACK AFTER GRADUATING FROM UCR. AND LIKE I SAID, I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU ALL FOR HOLDING THIS LISTENING SESSION. I AM CALLING FOR THE PEOPLE THAT ARE TOO AFRAID, THAT HAVE BEEN INTIMIDATED, AND THAT COULDN'T BE HERE TODAY. SO ONCE AGAIN I SPEAK FOR ALL PALM SPRINGS RESIDENTS WHEN I SAY DEFUND THE PALM SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT AND ALLOCATE IT TO THE COMMUNITY LIKE PARKS AND REC, AND AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS, FUND PROGRAMS FOR PEOPLE THAT ACTUALLY LIVE HERE. GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY AND HONESTLY, GIVE OUR BLACK FOLKS AND BLACK COMMUNITY THE REPRESENTATION THEY NEED, FOR BURNING DOWN THEIR HOMES AND RUINING THEIR LIVES. HOW MANY MORE STORIES DO WE HAVE TO TELL ABOUT THE GROSS MISCONDUCT OF POLICE OFFICERS? DO I CONTINUALLY HAVE TO TELL YOU HOW WE AS CHILDREN WERE HARASSED BY POLICE, HOW MY BROTHER HAD GUNS DRAWN ON HIM FOR WALKING HOME. I DO NOT UNDERSTAND HOW MANY MORE TIMES DO WE HAVE TO RELIVE OUR TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCES FOR YOU GUYS TO ACTUALLY DO SOMETHING. DOES IT MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD FOR US TO CONSTANTLY TELL YOU ABOUT EVERY SINGLE BAD EXPERIENCE THAT WE HAD FROM PALM SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT? YOU SEE, WHEN THE PALM SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE DOWNTOWN PROTECTING OUR STREETS, RIGHT? NO, THEY ARE NOT. THEY ARE HARASSING US ON THE NORTH SIDE OF PALM SPRINGS. BUT OF COURSE, YOU WOULD NOT KNOW THAT BECAUSE YOU GUYS HAVE NEVER WALKED IN OUR SHOES. YOU CAN ONLY IMAGINE. THE OTHER DAY I SAW SIX POLICE OFFICERS PULL OVER ONE MAN. ONE MAN. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU BUT THAT IS TEXTBOOK OVER POLICING. I ALSO WANT TO MENTION, AT THE LAST CITY COUNCIL MEETING, WHEN WE ALL EXPRESSED OUR FEELINGS AND OUR STORIES ABOUT DEFUNDING THE PALM SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT, IT WAS EXTREMELY DISMISSIVE THAT A COUNCILMEMBER, AFTER EVERYTHING THAT WAS JUST SAID, SAID THAT OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT IS EXEMPLARY. THAT THEY ARE AMAZING OFFICERS. AND ALL THESE OTHER THINGS. THE FACT THAT YOU DISMISSED US LIKE THAT, COUNCILMEMBER MIDDLETON, WAS TRULY, TRULY JUST I HAVE NO WORDS. I WAS SO FURIOUS. HOW COULD YOU DEFEND THEM AFTER EVERYONE JUST SAID THEY WERE FOLLOWED BY POLICE OFFICERS BECAUSE THEY WERE IN AN OLD BEAT UP TRUCK. THAT YOU COULD DEFEND THEM IF WE ARE LITERALLY TELLING YOU, WE'RE TELLING YOU OUR EXPERIENCES AND FOR YOU TO BE DISMISSIVE, THAT WAS TRULY, TRULY DISRESPECTFUL. AND I YEILD MY TIME.

**EZERNAL BLACK:** MY NAME IS EZERNAL. MY DAD STARTED WORKING IN PALM SPRINGS IN THE WINTERS IN THE 40S AND CAME HERE PERMANENTLY IN 1953. AFTER I HAD GONE TO COLLEGE FOR TWO YEARS IN TEXAS, I DECIDED TO COME FOR A VISIT. I WAS SO DISAPPOINTED TO SEE THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF SECTION 14 AND THAT THEY WERE SO MUCH WORSE THAN IN TEXAS, A LITTLE

TOWN WHO HAS ONLY A LITTLE MORE THAN 6,000 PEOPLE IN IT. SO I DECIDED TO STAY AND WORK A YEAR BEFORE GOING ON BACK TO COLLEGE. AND I FOUND IN 1967, THAT BLACK PEOPLE COULD ONLY DO SERVICE WORK THE SAME THAT THEY WERE DOING IN TEXAS. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE WAS THE PAY. MY PARENTS LEFT SECTION 14 IN 1961 AND THAT WAS BEFORE THE CITY OFFICALS BECAME VIOLENT. I CAME BACK TO PALM SPRINGS IN 1963 TO LIVE PERMANENTLY. AND AFTER SOME PICKETING WAS TAKING PLACE, WE GOT HERE IN PALM SPRINGS, THE FIRST BLACK GROCERY CLERK IN ACEVEDO, THE FIRST BLACK WAITRESS AT HAMBURGER HAMLET, THE FIRST BLACK BANK TELLER IN PALM SPRINGS. SO, DURING THAT PERIOD OF TIME, WE HAD OUR FIRST BLACK TEACHER WHO HAD EXPERIENCE, HAD BEEN WORKING FOR YEARS AS A TEACHER AND SHE CAME TO PALM SPRINGS, SHE HAD TO WORK AS A STUDENT TEACHER. SHE WAS GIVEN A STIPEND RATHER THAN A SALARY. BUT I ALSO FIND SOMETHING THAT DISTURBS ME IS THAT PALM SPRINGS HAS HAD A HIGH SCHOOL SINCE 1938, 39, AND THE FIRST BLACK STUDENT TO GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE WAS 1960, CHARLIE JORDAN. THAT WAS APPALLING TO ME. I WANTED TO WORK, WHEN I COULDN'T GET A JOB HERE IN PALM SPRINGS, I WAS A MAID, OR TO GET A JOB AT THE TELEPHONE COMPANY. BECAUSE I HAD GONE TO SCHOOL FOR TWO YEARS, THEY SAID I WAS OVERQUALIFIED. THAT WAS A STAB IN THE BACK. NEVER HAD ANY PERSONAL CONFRONTATIONS WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, BUT MY CHILDREN WOULD TALK ABOUT, FROM TIME TO TIME AND THEIR FRIENDS, HOW THE POLICE WOULD JUST HARASS THEM, AND THEY HAD A WHITE FRIEND WHO JOINED THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND HE GOT OFF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT BECAUSE HE WAS TIRED OF THE POLICE HARASSING HIS BLACK FRIEND. BUT ALL OF US RECOGNIZE THE FACT THAT WE NEED THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. BUT WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE IN HOW BLACKS ARE TREATED AND THE OTHER PEOPLE, TREATED NOT EQUALLY, AND OUR CITIZENS AS WELL, BECAUSE A WHITE MAN WILL GET A SLAP ON THE WRIST AND THE BLACK MAN WILL GO TO PRISON FOR 10 OR 15 YEARS. SO WE KNOW THAT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE. BUT MY REAL PROBLEM TODAY IS THE CROSSLEY ROAD CHANGE. I HAVE HEARD EVERY EXCUSE IN THE BOOK AS TO WHY IT HAS NOT BEEN DONE, EVEN TO THE FACT THAT HIS NAME IS TOO LONG TO GO ON THE SIGN. AND WE KNOW THAT IS NOT TRUE. WE RECOGNIZE THE FACT THAT, ONE A POLICE DEPARTMENT WE MUST HAVE, BUT ONE OF THE THINGS WE HAVE TO REALIZE IS THAT THERE IS THE GOLDEN RULE. WE WANT TO TREAT EACH OTHER AS WE HAVE BEEN TREATED. AND SO, ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I WANT YOU TO KNOW HERE ON THIS DAY IS, AND I WANT TO ASK THIS QUESTION, IS, WHY ARE WE AS BLACK PEOPLE SO HATED? WHAT HAVE WE DONE TO CAUSE YOU TO HATE US SO MUCH? THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE WITH YOU TODAY.

**JAMES CIOFFI:** THANK YOU. GOOD AFTERNOON MR. MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL. I JUST WANTED TO EXPRESS MY VIEW REGARDING THE BOGERT STATUE, I KNOW THIS IS NOT THE PERFECT TIME FOR THIS BUT IT IS SOMETHING I SEE OTHER PEOPLE MENTIONING TODAY. I THINK I WANT TO ECHO SOME OTHERS THAT HAD WROTE TO YOU, AND I WROTE A LETTER TO YOU AS WELL, BUT I THINK WE NEED TO HAVE A FORUM ON THIS ISSUE WHERE THE HISTORICAL RECORD AND FIRST-HAND TESTIMONY OF THOSE WHO WERE THERE AND HAVE PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THIS ISSUE WITH SECTION 14 ESPECIALLY, CAN BE PRESENTED IN AN HONEST WAY. AND I THINK MAYBE WE SHOULD WAIT UNTIL WE CAN DO THAT IN PERSON. THERE ARE A LOT OF HISTORICAL FOLKS AND PEOPLE WHO KNEW FRANK AND PEOPLE WHO KNEW FIRSHAND WHAT HAPPENED AT SECTION 14 AND ALL THE GREAT THINGS HE DID FOR OUR CITY, THAT NEED TO BE SAID. SO, I AM JUST, AGAIN, MY VOTE IS TO HAVE A FORUM WHERE FACTS CAN BE PRESENTED, AND SURELY OUR

STORIES AND PERCEPTIONS MAY BE DIFFERENT BUT THAT IS ALL GOOD. EDUCATE EVERYONE AND WE CAN HAVE A MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION ABOUT ALL THIS. THOSE ARE MY THOUGHTS AND THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME. AND THANK YOU FOR PUTTING THIS ON, IT HAS BEEN A VERY GOOD THING FOR OUR CITY.

**ELIZABETH DOLORES:** I JUST WANT TO SAY QUICKLY, THANK YOU GUYS FOR YOUR TIME, BUT ALSO TO LET YOU KNOW THAT THE FACT THAT YOU GUYS KEEP FUNDING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT WITH ALL THIS MONEY, I AM REALLY UPSET ABOUT BECAUSE WE COULD BE INVESTING IT IN OTHER THINGS INSTEAD OF A FREAKING MILITARIZED POLICE CHIEF THAT IS JUST STANDING THERE IN THE POLICE LOT. AND, YOU KNOW, THE COPS, I UNDERSTAND THEY DO THEIR JOB, THEY DO ALL THIS, BUT I FEEL LIKE THEY MILK THE CLOCK ALL THE TIME. I HAVE GONE TO COURT SEVERAL TIMES ON MATTERS OF JURY DUTY, AND THEY ARE ARROGANTLY EXPLAINING TO PEOPLE HOW THEY, YOU KNOW, LOVE COURT DAYS BECAUSE THEN THEY CAN GO THROUGH THEIR OVERTIME IN THE CITY AND, YOU KNOW, WE RELEASED A LOT OF GOOD CITY WORKERS THAT ACTUALLY HELP AND KEEP AND MAINTAIN OUR CITY STREETS CLEAN AND LOOKING PRISTINE, AND WE SACRIFICE THEM AND SOMEBODY NEEDS TO SPEAK UP AND ADVOCATE FOR THESE CITY WORKERS THAT WE ACTUALLY, YOU KNOW, SHOULD BE ASSISTING, AND THEN ALSO, LOOK AT THE, YOU KNOW, WHAT IS GOING ON, YOU KNOW, ON THE NORTH SIDE UP THERE. THERE'S NO BATHROOMS UP THERE. YOU KNOW, STILL IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD, SOME OF MY NEIGHBORS THAT DON'T HAVE SEWER SYSTEMS, WE COULD DO SO MUCH MORE WITH THIS MONEY. I AM REALLY UPSET BECAUSE YOU GUYS DISMISSED EVERYTHING WE SAID, OUR EMAILS, OUR PHONE CALLS. AND YOU KNOW, LISA MIDDLETON, YOU KNOW, ALL OF YOU GUYS THAT VOTED TO FUND THE POLICE, I'M REALLY UPSET AND I CAN'T EVEN FIND WORDS THAT ARE, YOU KNOW, THAT I CAN SAY WITHOUT OFFENDING PEOPLE ABOUT HOW I FEEL ABOUT THIS. AND, YOU KNOW, MY COUNCIL IS NOT AT WORK AND I AM VERY UPSET ABOUT WHAT YOU GUYS ARE DOING AND I WANT TO THANK CHRISTY AND I WANT TO THANK GRACE FOR STANDING UP FOR US, THE PEOPLE THAT KEEP GETTING DISMISSED. AND I AM OVER, YOU KNOW, YOU GUYS DISMISSING US, BECAUSE OF THE COLOR OF OUR SKIN OR BECAUSE OF, YOU KNOW, YOU THINK WE ARE YOUNG AND WE ARE DUMB. BUT WE STILL, YOU KNOW, PROVIDE FOR OUR CITY, WE STILL PAY OUR CITY TAXES, AND THEN WHEN WE PAY OUR CITY TAXES YOU HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH ACCEPTING OUR MONEY BUT YOU GUYS DO NOT ACCEPT WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY AND THAT IS APPALLING. AND I AM REALLY UPSET, AND THAT IS IT.

**CLIFFORD REED:** OKAY, I WANT TO SPEAK ON DISCRIMINATION AND RACISM IN AMERICA. AMERICA HAS BEEN DOING THIS FOR GENERATIONS, STATE AND CITY HAS FOLLOWED. IT IS TIME FOR US TO STOP. BLACK AMERICANS, NATIVE AMERICANS, AND MEXICAN AMERICANS HAVE CONTRIBUTED A GREAT DEAL TO THIS COUNTRY AND THEY SHOULD BE JUDGED AS AMERICANS, AND NOT AS SOME ALIEN FROM A DIFFERENT WORLD. IT IS TIME FOR THIS RACISM TO STOP AND TREAT EVERYBODY FAIR. WE HAVE CONTRIBUTED, WE HAVE BUILT THIS NATION TO WHERE IT IS RIGHT NOW. AND IT CANNOT BE A GREAT NATION IF ALL THE RACES ARE NOT ACCEPTED. THANK YOU.

**COURTNEE:** THANK YOU SO MUCH. I AM HERE TO TALK ABOUT THE FRANK BOGERT STATUE AND IN OPPOSITION OF REMOVAL OF THE STATUE AND SECTION 14. I THINK THERE'S A LOT OF MISNUMBERS AND RUMORS IN REGARD TO HIS STATUE AND SECTION 14. I DO WANT TO ADD THAT FRANK BOGERT WAS A TRUE ADVOCATE FOR MINORITIES IN HELPING ALL TRIBAL MEMBERS GO TO WASHINGTON, D.C. AND

TO ADVOCATE FOR THE TRIBAL MEMBERS TO GET TO LEASE THEIR LOAN, TO EXTEND FROM A FIVE YEAR LEASE TO A 99 YEAR LEASE. AND THAT WE SHOULD NOT JUDGE OUR PAST HISTORICAL LEADERS ON THE HINDSIGHT OF OUR NOW 2020 VISION. SO, I KNOW THAT THIS IS A DISCUSSION THAT WILL PROBABLY EXTEND, HOPEFULLY TO A LARGER PLATFORM IN THE FUTURE, AND I THANK THE COUNCILMEMBERS FOR THEIR TIME, AND I KNOW A LOT OF OUR MEMBERS ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO JOIN US. WE HAVE A COLLECTION OF OVER 1,700 MEMBERS OF ALL RACE ORIENTATIONS, GENDERS, AND PHILOSOPHICAL BELIEFS WITHIN OUR GROUP. AND THIS HAS REALLY BROUGHT A WONDERFUL AMOUNT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE. AND I WELCOME ANYBODY WHO IS INTERESTED TO JOIN IN ON THE CONVERSATION, TO JOIN WITH OUR PALM SPRINGS FACEBOOK PAGE, REGARDING PEOPLE WHO KNEW FRANK BOGERT THE BEST AND HEAR WHAT THEIR VOICES HAVE TO SAY IN REGARD TO... SORRY, I AM A MOTHER OF TIPLITS, SO THEY WILL COME IN AND OUT. SO, IF YOU COULD PLEASE HEAR FROM PEOPLE WHO KNEW HIM INSTEAD OF RUMORS, THAT WOULD BE WONDERFUL TO JOIN AND LISTEN IN A NONPOLITICAL TOWN, SO THAT WE CAN SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT IN REGARDS TO SECTION 14, WHICH IS OBVIOUSLY A HOT BUTTON TOPIC. BUT I THINK THE REAL CHANGE IN LOCATION IN REGARD TO THE BOGERT STATUE REALLY RESIDES IN THE INDIVIDUAL HEART MORE THAN THE LOCATION AND THE PHYSICAL ADDRESS OF THE STATUE. AND OUR SOCIETY, LIVING IN THIS 2020 VISION, REALLY NEEDS TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE GRANTED THIS PERSPECTIVE BECAUSE OF OUR HISTORICAL LEADERS OF THE PAST. AND WE CANNOT UNBURY OUR DEAD AND HOLD THEM TO THE UNCHANGING STANDARDS DIFFERENT THAN OUR OWN. IT IS UNREASONABLE AND UNACCEPTABLE AND WE HAVE THIS GREAT 2020 VISION NOW WITH THE NEXT GREATER VISION WILL BE 2030, AND I DO NOT KNOW WHAT ALL WE WILL BE HELD TO IN THE NEXT 10 YEAR STANDARDS. SO, WITH THAT, I THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, AND I YEILED THE REST OF MINE.

**SUSAN SMITH:** GOOD AFTERNOON, MAYOR KORS AND COUNCILMEMBERS. I WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE A LITTLE BIT OF INPUT ON POLICING, IF I MAY. I ATTENDED THE PALM SPRINGS CITIZENS ACADEMY A FEW YEARS AGO, AND AT THAT TIME, I LEARNED SO MUCH ABOUT OUR LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENT AND ALL THAT THEY TAKE CARE OF FOR US TO KEEP US SAFE AND PROTECTED. ONE THING THAT I DISCOVERED IS THAT A FEW YEARS AGO, THEY ANNOUNCED THAT THEY ARE 3 TO 4 OFFICERS SHORT ON THE FORCE AND THAT THEY WERE OFFERING A \$10,000 BONUS OR INCENTIVE TO BRING IN NEW OFFICERS AND UNFORTUNATELY , BECAUSE OF OUR DESERT AREA BEING PRETTY LIMITED AS FAR AS INDUSTRY AND SO FORTH, WE ARE NOT ALL THAT ATTRACTIVE OF AN AREA TO WORK AND MOST OFFICERS EVEN TODAY, I BELIEVE, EVEN COMMUTE FROM DISTANCES OF AN HOUR AWAY, SO I THINK WE NEED TO ADD TO OUR POLICE OFFICER FORCE AND PERHAPS BECAUSE OF CURRENT FINANCIALS, MAYBE TAKE AWAY THAT SUBSTANTIAL INCENTIVE AND REDUCE IT DOWN. BUT I CAME TO PALM SPRINGS IN 1957, I AM A THIRD GENERATION PALM SPRINGS REALTOR AND SO I HAVE LIVED HERE FOR 63 YEARS, GREW UP HERE, AND I FIND THAT THINGS HAVE DRASTICALLY CHANGED AND A LOT OF IT HAS TO DO WITH THE DRUG PROBLEM THAT STARTED AND THE ADDICTION PROBLEM THAT HAS REALLY GOT VERY HEAVY FROM THE EARLY 1970s TO THE MID-1980S. AND IT HAS BEEN AN ISSUE FOR YEARS HERE AND OUR POLICE OFFICERS HAVE IN THE LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS, AS YOU KNOW, THEY HAVE STOPPED CARS FOR MINOR VIOLATIONS TO FIND OUT THAT THERE ARE LOADED GUNS, POUNDS OF METHAMPHETAMINE, AND, YOU KNOW, GUYS ON PAROLE WHO, FOR EXAMPLE, AT THE CORNER OF INDIAN CANYON AND I BELIEVE RACQUET CLUB. SO, THEY HAVE MADE SOME WONDERFUL ARRESTS AND THEY ARE PROTECTING US AND I THINK WE NEED

TO APPLAUD THAT. AND THEN THE OTHER POINT IS THAT WHILE THESE BLM PROTESTS ARE ALLOWABLE, WHAT HAS HAPPENED WITH OUR POLICE FORCE IS THAT WHILE THEY HAVE OFFICERS IN THE FIELD AT FRANCIS STEVENS PARK OR RUTH HARDY PARK OR WHAT HAVE YOU, THEY ALSO HAVE TO DOUBLE THEIR BACKUP FORCE, YOU KNOW, IN CASE OF A RIOT, YOU KNOW, OR THINGS GONE BAD. SO, I WANT TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT, YOU KNOW, KUDOS TO OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT, I DO NOT THINK THAT OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT NEEDS TO TAKE A KNEE FOR ANYONE. AND I AM SHOCKED, YOU KNOW, WITH THAT KIND OF RHETORIC, BECAUSE LOOK AT OFFICERS VEGA AND ZEREBNY, WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIFE IN SERVICE TO US. AND THAT WHOLE INCIDENT WAS BASED UPON A GANG-RELATED FAMILY, TWO BROTHERS WERE DEALING DRUGS IN PALM SPRINGS OUT OF THE HOME NEAR VISTA CHINO AND SUNRISE, SO THAT EMPHASIZES MY POINT, AND I AM SORRY THAT SOME PEOPLE HERE HAVE FELT HARASSED, BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN PULLED OVER FOR A TAIL LIGHT THAT IS OUT, BUT THAT IS PART OF THEIR JOB BECAUSE IF THEY DO NOT DO THAT, AND THERE IS AN ACCIDENT OF SOME SORT, THEN, YOU KNOW, SOMEONE CAN SAY, WELL, WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME OR WHY DIDN'T YOU TICKET ME? ON BEHALF OF FRANK BOGERT, I WANT TO REMIND COUNCIL THAT HE ARRIVED IN PALM SPRINGS AT THE AGE OF 17 YEARS OLD IN 1927, AND HE DID PROVIDE A LOT OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY. HE LIVED AMONG US. HE LIVED IN THE SAME MODEST HOME FOR MANY, MANY YEARS. AND I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT HE IS A GOOD MAN. AND TO POINT A FINGER AT HIM FOR WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE TRIBAL LAND IS WRONG. AND REALLY OBJECT TO ALL THE RHETORIC THAT WE ARE SEEING. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION, I APPRECIATE IT.

**DOTTIE WILDER:** OKAY, MY NAME IS DOTTIE WILDER, AND LET ME FIRST SAY WHAT I TOLD THE COUNCIL BEFORE. LET ME TALK ABOUT WHAT I WAS LISTENING TO THIS MORNING BECAUSE AS FAR AS MY UNDERSTANDING THIS IS ABOUT RACISM AND AS FAR AS FRANK BOGERT AND HIS STATUE, THOSE WHO KNEW FRANK WOULD NEVER CLASSIFY HIM AS A RACIST. I THINK HE WAS A GREAT GUY AND GREAT FOR PALM SPRINGS, BUT AS FAR AS RACISM, I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU LEGISLATE THAT, AND TO ME, NOTHING TO DO WITH SKIN COLOR, IT HAS TO DO WITH THE WAY PEOPLE ACT. THERE IS GOOD AND BAD IN EVERY GROUP. I HAVE CERTAINLY BEEN TREATED LIKE A MINORITY IN THE GROUP AROUND ME IN ALL DIFFERENT ETHNICITIES AND RACE AND WHETHER AT WORK OR OUT AND ABOUT IN PUBLIC. SO, AS FAR AS PEOPLE BEING CONSIDERED UNDERPRIVILEGED, THAT USUALLY HAS TO DO WITH THE FAMILY YOU ARE BORN INTO. AND HOW MUCH MONEY THEY HAD AND, IN OUR SOCIETY, IF YOU WORK HARD ENOUGH YOU WOULD GET AHEAD AND BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH MORE THAN THAT. THIS DAY, THE GOVERNMENT TAXES OFTEN TAKES IT AWAY AND GIVES IT TO SOMEBODY ELSE. THEN YOU ARE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GET AHEAD THROUGH YOUR LIFE. BUT AS I RAISE MY KIDS, I DID NOT DESCRIBE PEOPLE BY BASIC THINGS, ONE IS THEIR SKIN COLOR. ONE IS THEIR HEIGHT OR THEIR ETHNICITY. IT IS WHAT IT IS, THAT IS THE WAY WE WERE BORN AND WE MAKE THE BEST OUT OF THE LIFE WE HAVE. AND ANYWAY, THAT IS MY COMMENT. AND I HOPE YOU LEAVE FRANK BOGERT'S STATUE RIGHT WHERE IT IS.

**DOUG EVANS:** THANK YOU VERY MUCH. HONORABLE MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL. YOU KNOW MY NAME, I AM A PROUD FORMER EMPLOYEE OF THE CITY, I WORKED IN THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT FOR 26 YEARS. I WAS INVOLVED IN PLANNING OF ALL TYPES, TRIBAL RELATIONS AND LOTS OF COMMUNITY MEETINGS AT DESERT HIGHLAND, AND I AGREE WITH JOY ABOUT THE WARMTH OF THOSE

MEETINGS, I GOT SOME OF THE BEST HUGS IN MY CAREER AT THE DESERT HIGHLAND COMMUNITY CENTER. I ALSO WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE COUNCILMEMBERS THAT HAVE TAKEN THE TIME TO TALK ABOUT BOGERT. HIS STORY IS MUCH MORE COMPLEX THAN MOST PEOPLE UNDERSTAND. AS A NEW EMPLOYEE OF THE CITY, I WAS CONCERNED. I DID MY HOMEWORK, I READ EVERYTHING I COULD ON SECTION 14, I READ EVERYTHING I COULD ON TRIBAL RELATIONS, WHY? I HAD WORKED FOR THE CITY OF LONG BEACH AND I FOCUSED FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS ON NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING DEMOGRAPHICS IN SOME OF THE MORE CHALLENGED NEIGHBORHOODS IN LONG BEACH. IF YOU LOOK AT SECTION 14, THERE ARE HOUSING ISSUES DATING BACK TO THE DEPRESSION. THE TRIBAL COUNCIL AND ITS MEMBERS ASKED THE CITY FOR HELP. FOR OVER 10 YEARS, MANY PEOPLE SERVED ON THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE TRIBAL COUNCIL. THEY WORKED TOGETHER TO TRY AND COME UP WITH SOLUTIONS. THEY CONTACTED MULTIPLE AGENCIES TO ASK FOR GUIDANCE AND HELP. THE FIRST EVICTION NOTICES WERE IN 1951 DURING THE KOREAN WAR, JUST TO KIND OF SET THE STAGE OF WHERE THE COUNTRY WAS. POVERTY WAS SERIOUS, HOUSING CONDITIONS WERE SUBSTANDARD. THE TRIBE AND THE CITY WORKED VERY HARD TO TRY AND CHANGE FEDERAL LAWS GOVERNING INDIAN LAND. MULTIPLE MAYORS WORKED ON THAT. FRANK BOGERT WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN BRINGING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO MAKE SECTION 14 RELOCATIONS WORK AS BEST AS THEY COULD FOR THE TIMES. FRANK ACTUALLY ADVOCATED FOR MORE MORATORIUMS ON EVICTIONS. AGAIN, 10 1/2 YEARS BEFORE THE FIRST PERSON WAS MOVED IN SECTION 14. AT THAT TIME, FUNDING SOURCES WERE VIRTUALLY NONEXISTENT. THE TRIBAL LEADERS AND THE CITY COUNCIL AND UPWARDS OF FIVE OR SIX MAYORS TRIED EVERYTHING THEY COULD TO PULL SOMETHING TOGETHER. I WOULD LIKE TO STRAY A LITTLE BIT. SOMEBODY MADE A COMMENT EARLIER ABOUT FRANK BOGERT BEING A CONSERVATOR. HE WAS A CONSERVATIVE CONSERVATOR FOR ONE INDIAN BUT HE WAS A TEENAGER, THAT INDIAN CALLED FRANK BECAUSE HE TRUSTED FRANK AND ASKED FOR HELP. WHEN THAT INDIAN TURNED 21 YEARS OLD, FRANK RELINQUISHED HIS CONSERVATOR POSITION. HE TOLD THE INDIAN; YOU KNOW ENOUGH TO MANAGE YOUR OWN PROPERTY. THAT YOUNG INDIAN WAS A TRIBAL CHAIRMAN. HE WAS A TRIBAL CHAIRMAN DURING THE SECTION 14 YEARS THAT WE HAVE ALL BEEN TALKING ABOUT. FRANK WAS A LEADER AND SUBMITTED TO THE CITY, WORKED HARD TO REPRESENT ALL PEOPLE. HE RESPECTED PEOPLE AND JUDGED PEOPLE BY THEIR CHARACTER, CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS. HE DID THIS WHILE BEING MAYOR AND ALSO IN HIS PRIVATE LIFE. THOSE MEN AND WOMEN HAVE STEPPED UP TO BE LEADERS OF THIS CITY, RISKED CRITICISM, SHOW THEM THE RESPECT WHERE THE RESPECT IS DUE. HARD DECISIONS WERE MADE, PEOPLE WERE AFFECTED, BUT THOSE DECISIONS WERE NOT MADE WITH MALICE. LOOK AT THE EARLY LEADERS OF PALM SPRINGS BOTH CITY AND TRIBAL, THEY WERE AMAZING CIVIC MINDED PEOPLE. THEY HAD STRONG PERSONALITIES. THEY WERE PASSIONATE. THEY WERE COMPETITORS, BUT ON BIG ISSUES, THEY WERE COLLABORATORS, THEY CAME TOGETHER TO FIND FOR THE TIMES, THE BEST SOLUTION THEY COULD TO MOVE THE CITY FORWARD. TODAY, PALM SPRINGS'S CHARACTER WAS BUILT BY A CAST OF CHARACTERS, WITHOUT PEOPLE LIKE FRANK BOGERT AND SO MANY OTHERS, WE MAY NEVER HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE AND WORK IN PALM SPRINGS AS WE KNOW IT, IT MAY HAVE JUST REMAINED A PLACE IN THE SAND. THANK YOU FOR LISTENING. I WILL LOOK FORWARD TO ONGOING, MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE CITY, AND ITS HISTORY. IT IS RICH, IT IS COMPLEX, AND WE APPRECIATE YOUR TIME, AND WE KNOW THAT THE CITY COUNCIL WORKS VERY HARD AND WE THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

**GINNY FOAT:** THANK YOU COUNCIL FOR TAKING MY CALL AND THANK YOU FOR KEEPING US SAFE DURING THIS PANDEMIC. I MUST SAY THAT I AM IMMENSELY PROUD OF MY CITY AND FOR THE PEOPLE TAKING THE TIME TO SPEAK UP IN THIS FORUM. I FEEL LIKE I HAVE LISTENED TO AN ANTHOPOLOGY TED TALK, AND EXCEPT FOR ONE VERY PAINFUL RACIST CALL, THIS HAS BEEN AN ABSOLUTE INSPIRATIONAL EXPERIENCE. I'M NOT SO PROUD HOWEVER, OF THE HISTORY OF PALM SPRINGS. AND MOVING TO PALM SPRINGS IN THE 90S I HAD ALWAYS ADMIRERD THE INCREDIBLE MID-CENTURY ARCHITECTURE OF OUR BEAUTIFUL CITY HALL. I COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND WHY THERE WAS THE STATUE OF THE COWBOY IN THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING. SO, I DID SOME RESEARCH. I READ ABOUT HISTORY OF THE PERIOD, THAT MAYOR FRANK BOGERT LED US AND I MUST SAY, I WAS HORRIFIED. YES, OUR CITY WAS THE PLAYGROUND OF THE STARS, BUT THE HORROR THAT WAS PLACED ON THE MOSTLY MINORITY WORKING FOR OUR CITY TO GET US THERE WAS UNFATHOMABLE. UNDER BOGERTS LEADERSHIP, 100S OF FAMILIES LOST EVERYTHING WHILE HE AND THE CITY COUNCIL OVERSAW THE BURNING OF THEIR HOMES AND POSSESSIONS TO CLEAR OUT THE SQUALOR. HIS TERM FROM SECTION 14 DURING THAT TIME, HE WAS AN EXECUTOR OF SOME INDIAN LAND. SO, HE ALSO GOT COMPENSATION. BUT HE NEVER GAVE COMPENSATION TO HELP THE RELOCATION OR ANY OTHER MINOR ASSISTANCE, MUCH LESS, AN APOLOGY WAS NEVER PROVIDED TO THESE FAMILIES AS THEY WATCHED THEIR HOMES AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS GO UP IN FLAMES. IN 2016, I WAS ON THE CITY COUNCIL AND I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST THAT THE STATUE BE MOVED. UNFORTUNATELY, THE OUTCRY FROM THE PUBLIC, FROM THE ALL-TIME RESIDENTS, DROWNED OUT THE CALL BECAUSE OF WHAT SEEMS TO BE FINALLY IN THE AWARENESS OF RACISM THAT HAD EXISTED AND THE PROTECTION OF OUR COUNTRY, PEOPLE ARE NOW LOOKING AT HISTORY I THINK FROM A DIFFERENT LIGHT. ITS WELL DOCUMENTED THAT FRANK BOGERT WAS RACIST, HOMOPHOBIC, AND THAT IS ALSO WELL DOCUMENTED THAT THE ACT WAS SO HORRENDOUS AND WAS AN NECESSARY FOR AN ATTORNEY GENERAL INVESTIGATION AND THAT INVESTIGATION CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS AN EGREGIOUS ACT OF RACISM. I THINK IT IS TIME TO REMOVE THE SYMBOL OF HATE FROM IN FRONT OF WHAT WE SHOULD REFER TO IT AS THE PEOPLE'S BUILDING. IT WILL NOT MAKE UP OR REMOVE ALL THE PAIN AND HARM THAT IT HAS CAUSED TO ANY OF THE FAMILIES THAT STILL LIVE IN PALM SPRINGS OR THOSE WHO HAVE MOVED SINCE FROM PALM SPRINGS NOR WILL IT ERASE THE RACISM THAT STILL PERMEATES OUR PRESENT. BUT WHAT I THINK IT WILL ACKNOWLEDGE IS THAT WE RECOGNIZE THE RACISM, WE RECOGNIZE THE PAIN AND WE ARE WILLING TO ACT UPON IT BY REMOVING THIS SYMBOL OF HATE. THIS DOES NOT NEGATE THE GOOD THAT HAPPENED TO OUR CITY WHEN FRANK BOGERT WAS THE MAYOR. HE WAS NOT THE ONLY ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR THOSE HORRENDOUS ACTS AT THE TIME. BUT HE IS THE ONLY ONE WITH A STATUE IN FRONT OF THE CITY HALL. AND SO, I ASK THE CITY COUNCIL TO REMOVE THE FRANK BOGERT STATUE, AND THIS ONE SMALL WAY WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE HARM THAT WAS DONE TO SO MANY OF OUR FELLOW PALM SPRINGS RESIDENTS BOTH PAST AND PRESENT. WE CANNOT EXCUSE IT. BY SAYING THAT WAS THEN AND THIS IS NOW. IT IS TIME NOW TO DO THAT, TO RIGHT THAT WRONG. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ALL THAT YOU DO. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS PARTICIPATED ON THIS CALL. IT HAS BEEN A REAL INSPIRATION TO ME.

**RENEE BROWN:** ALL RIGHT, MY NAME IS RENÉE BROWN. BORN AND RAISED IN THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS. I THINK WE ARE TRYING TO REACH BACK AND CHANGE THE CITY. WE ARE BEING PRETTY HYPOCRITICAL. WE NEED TO GO FORWARD. THIS COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL BEFORE, VOTED IN SHORT TERM RENTALS WHICH ARE

THE MOST SOCIO - ECONOMICALLY DISCRIMINATORY THING THAT PALM SPRINGS HAS EVER HAD. IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD I USED TO HAVE A NURSE, I USED TO HAVE A MECHANIC, I USED TO HAVE A HAIRDRESSER, I USED TO HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO COULD AFFORD TO BUY HOMES IN THE DESERT PARK AREA. TODAY NOBODY CAN AFFORD TO BUY A HOME IN THE DESERT PARK AREA BECAUSE AS SOON AS A HOME BECOMES AVAILABLE, THE SHORT-TERM RENTAL COMPANY COMES IN AND BUYS THEM. SO, ANYBODY, AND YOU CAN ASK THE CITY EMPLOYEES, NO CITY EMPLOYEES CAN AFFORD TO LIVE OR RENT. YOU KNOW MY CHILDREN WHO WERE BORN AND RAISED HERE HAVE TO BUY IN THE MORONGO VALLEY BECAUSE WE HAVE A LACK OF AFFORDABLE, MIDDLE INCOME RENTALS. I WILL NOT GET INTO THE RACISM THING. IN PALM SPRINGS, WE HAVE TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE. THE VERY WEALTHY AND THOSE OF US WHO WORK FOR THEM. AND IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THAT WAY. YOU KNOW? MY FAMILY CAME HERE IN 1948. AND I DON'T SEE THAT WE HAVE DONE ANYTHING TO CHANGE THIS. I WOULD LIKE US TO SEEK OUT TO HIRE LOCAL KIDS ON THE POLICE FORCE. WE ARE TRAINING PUBLIC SERVANTS, TO BE FIREMEN AND POLICE. WHY DON'T WE HIRE THOSE KIDS? THOSE THAT ARE SMOKING POT AT SUNRISE PARK. CRAWFORD USED TO PULL UP IN HIS POLICE CAR AND SAY RENEE I'M TAKING YOU HOME. YOU KNOW THIS SHORT-TERM RENTAL THING DESTROYS THE COMMUNITY. YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR. ON MY BLOCK, I HAVE THREE SHORT-TERM RENTALS ON MY BLOCK. THAT MEANS THAT I HAVE THREE LESS NEIGHBORS. I HAVE THREE LESS COMMUNITY PEOPLE THAT I CAN BOND WITH. YOU KNOW? SO, AND THIS CITY COUNCIL, AND THE CITY COUNCIL BEFORE CAN BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT SOCIAL ECONOMIC DISCRIMINATION. YOU KNOW? I JUST DO NOT SEE THAT WE CAN HOLD ONE MAN ACCOUNTABLE FOR SOMETHING THAT THE WHOLE CITY COUNCIL, THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE BUREAU OF TOURISM, ALL OF THOSE PEOPLE WANTED THE PEOPLE IN SECTION 14 GONE BECAUSE IT WAS RIGHT ON INDIAN CANYON AND IT DISTURBED OUR TOURISM BUSINESS. WE ALL HAVE TO LOOK AT SOME OF THE DECISIONS THAT WE MAKE TODAY. WHY DON'T WE HAVE A FUND FOR MINORITY ENTREPRENEURS WHO LIVE IN PALM SPRINGS, TO START BUSINESSES IN PALM SPRINGS. OH GOD FORBID WE ACTUALLY DO SOMETHING. IT IS TIME THAT WE REALLY ADDRESS THE PROBLEM AND NOT TRY TO LOOK BACKWARDS. THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME SHARE.

**STEPHEN BENSON:** HI. THANK YOU FOR THIS FORUM. THAT SHOWS A LOT OF COURAGE. I HAVE THREE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS REGARDING POLICING. LAST MONTH MY TWO SISTERS AND I, ONE SISTER TEACHES AT RANCHO MIRAGE HIGH SCHOOL, AND THE OTHER SISTER IS A REGISTERED NURSE IN NORCO. AT THAT DEMONSTRATION WHICH I SEE A LOT OF FACES HERE THAT I SAW THERE. PEOPLE WORE MASKS. PEOPLE WERE OBSERVING PHYSICAL DISTANCE. AND IT WAS A CELEBRATORY, DESPITE THE SUBJECT, IT WAS CELEBRATORY GATHERING WHEN WE STARTED THERE WERE COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS IN UNIFORM AND UNARMED. WHEN WE FINISHED MY SISTERS AND I TURNED AROUND TO LEAVE AND WE SAW OURSELVES SURROUNDED BY PALM SPRINGS ARMED POLICE. OKAY? WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS WHAT WAS THE MESSAGE BEING SENT? AND ALSO, HOW MUCH DID THAT STAND COST OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT? THE NEXT QUESTION IS, HOW MANY LAWSUITS AGAINST THE PALM SPRINGS POLICE CURRENTLY ACTIVE AND WHAT IS THE COST? THE COST OF THE DEFENSE AND THE COST OF THE POTENTIAL AWARDS? IN THE PAST, HOW MANY LAWSUITS HAS PALM SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT LOST? AND HOW MUCH DID THAT COST US? THESE ISSUES MUST BE ADDRESSED. NOW, THE NEXT AND MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE THAT I HAVE TO BRING UP IS ON THE COVID-19 RESPONSE. IF WE DO NOT MANAGE THIS PANDEMIC, NOTHING ELSE THAT WE DO OR TALK ABOUT HERE WILL MATTER. WE NEED TO BRING BACK MASKING AND IT

NEEDS TO BE ENFORCED. IF WE NEED TO PASS A CITY ORDINANCE THAT ESTABLISHES A FINE, AND THE POLICE NEED MONEY, LET'S GIVE THEM 30% FROM EVERY TICKET THEY WRITE FOR NOT WEARING A MASK, FOR NOT OBSERVING SOCIAL DISTANCING, FOR OPENING ALL OF THE BUSINESSES THAT SHOULD BE CLOSED. THIS IS IMPORTANT TO ME. BECAUSE I AM IN SEVERAL OF THE RISK CATEGORIES. I AM OLD. AND I HAVE COPD. AND I RECENTLY WENT THROUGH A SUMMER OF CHEMOTHERAPY. THIS DISEASE WILL QUITE LIKELY KILL ME. AND IT NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED, THANK YOU.

**DENNIS MOORE:** HELLO MY NAME IS DENNIS MOORE. I'M GOING TO BE A FRESHMAN AT PALM SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL IN AUGUST. I'M A RESIDENT OF THE DESERT HIGHLAND COMMUNITY. I WANT TO TALK ABOUT AN INCIDENT THAT I HAD WITH THE PALM SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT. IT HAPPENED IN NOVEMBER, A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO. I WAS GOING OUT TO MY UNCLE'S CAR TO GET SOMETHING. ALL OF A SUDDEN, THE POLICE OFFICER COMES UP AND ASKED ME WHAT I'M DOING WITH THE CAR. AND IF I WAS STEALING. AND I JUST WONDERED, WHY ME? IT KIND OF MADE ME FEEL SAD THAT THAT COULD HAPPEN TO LIKE A KID. THAT IS ALL, THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

**SHAWNDA FAVEAU:** HI. I'M GLAD THAT YOU CAN HEAR ME. I WANTED TO CALL TO THE ATTENTION THAT WITH THE POLICING, FIRST OF ALL. THERE HAVE BEEN A COUPLE OF INCIDENCES IN THE DESERT HIGHLAND COMMUNITY, THAT THE POLICE HAVE BEEN CALLED. AND IN THAT MOMENT THAT THE POLICE WERE CALLED, UNFORTUNATELY WHEN THE POLICE COME, THEY DO NOT ARREST THE PERSON, THEY SIMPLY GUIDE THAT PERSON AWAY FROM WHATEVER ACTIVITY THAT THEY ARE DOING. THEN PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY DO NOT FEEL LIKE THEY'RE BEING HEARD. ONCE THEY CALLED THE POLICE, THE POLICE COME, THE POLICE DO NOT ARREST THE PERSON WHO'S DOING SOMETHING ILLEGAL AND THE PERSON IS LET GO. THERE WAS AN INCIDENT OF VANDALISM AT THE JOJ. THE POLICE CAME, THAT PERSON WAS APPREHENDED, THE PERSON CAME BACK AND PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY FELT LIKE THEY WERE AT RISK, AGAIN. THAT PERSON WAS LET GO. THAT PERSON WAS NOT ARRESTED A SECOND TIME. SO, IT IS UNFORTUNATE WHEN THAT SOMETIMES WHEN THE POLICE OFFICER COMES TO THE DESERT HIGHLAND COMMUNITY MEETING, THEY DON'T COME WITH A WARM RECEPTION. FOR INSTANCE, IF A POLICE OFFICER IS DRIVING IN THE COMMUNITY, THEY DON'T WAVE TO THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS. THEY DON'T TRY TO REACH OUT IN ORDER TO FIND OUT HOW COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE. ITS JUST THAT THEY COME ACROSS SO ROUGH. AND IN MY INTERACTION WITH THE POLICE, I HAVE NOT HAD THAT KIND OF INTERACTION BEFORE. UNTIL I MOVED TO THE DESERT HIGHLAND COMMUNITY. I GREW UP IN LOS ANGELES IN THE SILVERLAKE AREA AND EVEN THE POLICE CAME TO MY HOUSE JUST TO CHECK ON A FALSE ALARM, THEY ASKED ME WHY I CHOSE TO LIVE IN THAT COMMUNITY BECAUSE I WAS FROM SILVERLAKE. SO, THERE IS A GAP OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE POLICE OFFICERS, BEING ABLE JUST TO TALK TO THEIR COMMUNITY AS HUMAN BEINGS. AND OTHER COMMUNITY MEMBERS DO NOT WANT TO COME ON AND TALK BECAUSE THEY HAVE SAID THIS TIME AND TIME AGAIN, FOR INSTANCE, THE FRANK BOGERT STATUE. IT IS OFFENSIVE TO A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY. BUT WE FEEL THAT WE HAVE NOT BEEN HEARD WITH IT BEING MOVED OR TAKEN DOWN, PREFERABLY TAKEN DOWN. THE COMMUNITY HAS SPOKEN TIME AND TIME AGAIN SAYING, HEY, THIS IS AFFECTING US, THIS IS HURTING US. WE ARE THEN REACHED WITH OH IT IS OKAY, IT'S NOT THAT BAD. AND IT FEELS LIKE IT IS FALLEN UPON DEAF EARS. I HAVE LIVED IN THE DESERT HIGHLAND COMMUNITY FOR LITTLE BIT OVER TWO YEARS. PALM SPRINGS HAS BEEN

WONDERFUL IN EMBRACING ME AS THE NEW PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSIONER. I'M EXTREMELY HAPPY AND EXCITED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY AND TO PALM SPRINGS IN ORDER TO HAVE ART HEAL OUR COMMUNITY. BUT IN ORDER FOR US TO DO SO IN ORDER FOR US TO HEAL, WE HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THERE IS A PROBLEM HAPPENING AND WE ARE NOT LISTENING TO EACH OTHER. PLEASE LISTEN TO THE BLACK COMMUNITY AND HEAR THEM WHEN WE SAY ENOUGH. MOVE THE STATUE, PLEASE. HAVE THE POLICE OFFICER COME INTO THE COMMUNITY WITH MORE RESPECT. WHEN THEY GO TO YOUR COMMUNITY, THEY ARE FINE, WHEN THEY COME TO OUR COMMUNITY, THEY ARE NOT. SOME OF THEM ARE AND SOME OF THEM ARE NOT. I FEEL LIKE IT IS TIME THAT WE SHOULD ALL ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE HAVE MADE MISTAKES IN THE PAST. THIS IS A CITY THAT IS READY TO GROW AND MOVE FORWARD. AND NOW IS THE TIME THAT WE GET TO MAKE THESE AMAZING CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY AND IN OUR LIVES. WE GET TO BE THE PEOPLE THAT WE WISHED OUR PARENTS WERE. THAT WE STOOD UP MORE FOR RACISM, WE HAVE THAT OPPORTUNITY NOW TO CHANGE IT. AND THIS CITY, WE GET TO BE THE EXAMPLE THAT OTHER CITIES LOOK AT. AND TO TAKE IT INTO CONSIDERATION HEY, IF PALM SPRINGS CAN DO IT, ANYBODY CAN. SO LET'S TAKE THIS TIME AS HUMAN BEINGS TO JOIN TOGETHER AND TO LISTEN TO ONE ANOTHER, TO FINALLY COME TOGETHER AND SAY OKAY, THAT WAS OUR PAST, THIS WILL BE OUR NEW FUTURE. JOINING TOGETHER, COMING TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY, HAVING THE FUNDS THAT POLICE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO UTILIZE CORRECTLY, BEING PUT BACK INTO THE COMMUNITY. SO, THE COMMUNITY CAN UTILIZE IT, FOR MENTAL HEALTH, FOR SOCIAL PROGRAMS. THIS IS OUR TIME TO SHINE. I MOVED TO PALM SPRINGS SO I COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE. I REALLY LOVE THE COMMUNITY HERE AND DESERT HIGHLAND IS A BEAUTIFUL, WONDERFUL COMMUNITY WHEN YOU TAKE THE TIME, GET TO LEARN AND KNOW THE PEOPLE THAT LIVE IN THE COMMUNITY. DON'T JUDGE THEM BY THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN. THIS IS THE TIME THAT PALM SPRINGS GET TO BE THE MOST AMAZING CITY. PLEASE, PLEASE, I'M ASKING ALL OF US TO RISE TO THE OCCASION AND BECOME THE CITY THAT COMES TOGETHER TO BE EQUAL TO ONE ANOTHER AND MAKE PALM SPRINGS A SAFER, HAPPY, UNIFORM, HARMONIOUS PLACE. THANK YOU.

**DIETER CRAWFORD:** GOOD AFTERNOON COUNCIL, MAYOR AND STAFF. MY NAME IS DIETER CRAWFORD, I AM A GRADUATE OF LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY HEALTH - SAN MANUEL GATEWAY COLLEGE. I CURRENTLY WORK AS A COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER WITH DESERT CLINIC PAIN INSTITUTE. I'M VICE PRESIDENT OF THE DESERT HIGHLAND GATEWAY ESTATES COMMUNITY ACTION ASSOCIATION AND I'M ALSO A BOARD MEMBER OF THE PALM SPRINGS BLACK HISTORY COMMITTEE. MY FAMILY MOVED HERE TO PALM SPRINGS AND SETTLED IN SECTION 14 AGUA CALIENTE INDIAN RESERVATION IN 1951. I JUST WANT TO SPEAK ON THE TOPIC OF SYSTEMIC RACISM. THE BLACK COMMUNITY HAS A LONG HISTORY OF DISTRUST WITH THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS AND IT DATES BACK TO SECTION 14. MANY OTHER SPEAKERS BEFORE ME, HAVE SPOKEN ON THAT AS WELL. WE KNOW THAT THE CITY WAS FOUNDED ON DISCRIMINATORY HOUSING PRACTICES. THERE WERE DEED RESTRICTIONS TO KEEP AFRICAN AMERICAN AND LATINO FAMILIES FROM LIVING IN CERTAIN PARTS OF THE CITY. I RECENTLY HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO READ THE ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORT FROM 1968 WHICH SAYS THAT THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS NOT ONLY DISREGARDED THE RESIDENTS OF THE SECTION 14 AS PROPERTY OWNERS, TAXPAYERS AND VOTERS, PALM SPRINGS IGNORED THE RESIDENTS OF SECTION 14 AND DID NOT VIEW THEM AS HUMAN BEINGS. THE REPORT CALLED IT A CITY ENGINEERED HOLOCAUST. AND I WORK IN PUBLIC HEALTH, MY BACKGROUND IS IN PUBLIC HEALTH, SO WE LOOK AT A LOT OF OUR SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF

HEALTH. THE HISTORY OF PALM SPRINGS HAS LED TO SOME OF THOSE DISPARITIES AND INEQUITIES. YOU SEE IT IN THE HIGH-END INCARCERATION RATES. YOU KNOW, THERE IS DRUG AND GANGS TARGETING THE COMMUNITY OVER THE YEARS. WE HAVE NOT SEEN THOSE SAME TYPES OF THINGS OR USE OF POLICE FORCE IN OTHER NEIGHBORHOODS. COUPLE YEARS BACK, RESIDENT HOMES WERE RAIDED AT 5:00 A.M. WITH ARMORED VEHICLES FOR A MINOR DRUG OFFENSE THAT MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY HAD COMMITTED. WE KNOW THAT EVERY TIME THAT I AM STOPPED, POLICE ASK ME IF I'M ON PROBATION OR PAROLE. WE KNOW THAT THE CITY IS ONLY 5% BLACK. BUT BLACKS ARE 13% OF THE US. WE SEE THAT AS WELL DEALING WITH THE FOOD DESERT ISSUE. THE NEAREST GROCERY STORE TO DESERT HIGHLAND IS 2.5 MILES, BUT WE CAN EASILY GET CANNABIS, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO IN A SHORT WALK. CANNABIS DEVELOPMENTS HAVE BASICALLY TAKEN OVER THE NEIGHBORHOOD SINCE 2016. THERE HAVE BEEN 11 CITY PERMITTED CANNABIS BUSINESSES, WITH NO SEPARATION FOR RESIDENTS IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS. MEMBERS OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD HAVE BEEN ASKING FOR OUTDOOR RESTROOMS AT DESERT HIGHLAND FOR MANY YEARS AND WE ARE THE ONLY PARK IN THE CITY THAT DOES NOT HAVE OUTDOOR RESTROOMS. WE EVEN SAW IN THE DISTRICT ELECTIONS THAT THE DEMOGRAPHER FOUND RACIALLY POLARIZED VOTING. WE HAD A PAST MAYOR AND ONE OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS WHO DID NOT EVEN WANT TO VOTE TO SWITCH TO DISTRICT ELECTIONS. SO, THERE IS A LONG HISTORY OF RACISM IN THE CITY. AND IS STILL EXISTS AS WELL. THE ENCOUNTERS WITH THE POLICE AND THE COMMUNITY HAVE BEEN WELL DOCUMENTED. WE OFTEN SPEAK TO THEM AT OUR REGULAR COMMUNITY MEETINGS. WE ARE THE OLDEST ORGANIZED NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION. WE WERE FOUNDED IN 1967, TO FIGHT THESE VERY ISSUES THAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT. I WOULD JUST LIKE TO SEE THE CITY TAKE MORE OF AN EQUITY APPROACH TO COMBAT RACISM. THERE IS A BIG DIFFERENCE IN EQUITY AND EQUALITY. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE US INVESTING IN SOCIAL PROGRAMS, SO RECREATION, HOUSING, EDUCATION, PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE US OFFER ASSISTANCE FOR BLACK BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS. PALM SPRINGS AWARDS SOME CITY CONTRACTS TO BLACKS AND MINORITY BUSINESSES BUT ALSO TO OFFER WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TRAINING AND JOB TRAINING. AS A COUPLE OF SPEAKERS BEFORE ME SAID, INVEST IN OUR RESIDENTS. WHEN WE SAY DEFUND THE POLICE, WE DON'T MEAN DEFUND THE POLICE. WE MEAN REALLOCATE THE FUNDING. I JUST WANT TO THANK YOU GUYS FOR HAVING THIS MEETING. AND TO GIVE US THE TIME TO HAVE THIS FORUM AND THIS DISCUSSION. AGAIN, MY NAME IS DIETER CRAWFORD. THANKS AGAIN FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION.

**DAVID CHRISTIAN:** I WILL BE MIRRORING SOME OF THE EXCELLENT COMMENTS THAT WERE MADE BY DOUG EVANS, RENEE BROWN AND JAMES CIOFFI. I HAVE WORKED REALLY HARD FOR YEARS IN OUR LOVELY CITY. AND I HAVE BEEN A RESIDENT AND ARCHITECT HERE FOR OVER HALF A CENTURY. I FIRST CAME OUT HERE IN 1951 WITH MY PARENTS. IF YOU'VE EATEN DOWNTOWN, YOU'VE PROBABLY EATEN IN ONE OF THE RESTAURANTS THAT I HAVE DESIGNED. I SPENT 25 YEARS ON THE PALM SPRINGS ARCHITECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE. I WAS ALSO A PLANNING COMMISSIONER, SO I'M SENSITIVE TO A LOT OF THE ISSUES THAT YOU HAVE ON YOUR SIDE OF THE TABLE. I GUESS I HAVE PUT MY HEART AND SOUL TO TRY TO MAKE THE CITY I LOVE A BETTER PLACE FOR ALL OF US TO LIVE. AND REGARDING THE STATUTE, I KNEW FRANK BOGERT FOR DECADES. QUITE SIMPLY, NOBODY MADE PALM SPRINGS THE SPECIAL PLACE IT IS EXCEPT FOR FRANK. AS A MULTI TERM MAYOR HE LITERALLY PUT PALM SPRINGS ON THE MAP, INTERNATIONALLY AND NATIONALLY AS WELL. AND I FEEL THE CURRENT LOCATION IS APPROPRIATE TO

HIS OVERALL HISTORY HERE. AND ONE OF THE THINGS I WANT TO COMMUNICATE ABOUT FRANK IS HE HAD ALMOST A THEATRICAL, ROUGH, PERSONAL MANNER. HE HAD A REALLY DRY WIT AND A WARM HEART AND HE WAS THE MOST CASUAL WITH INSULTING HIS PERSONAL FRIENDS. AND WHO I KNEW WELL AND HE WAS A FAVORITE TARGET AND A WORTHY ADVERSARY FOR FRANK. I MEAN FRANK HAD HIS HANDS FULL, IN TERMS OF PRANKS AND INSULTS. FRANK WAS BORN IN 1910. 110 YEARS AGO AND UNFORTUNATLY, OBVIOUSLY, MOST OF HIS THOUSANDS OF FRIENDS DIED DECADES AGO, BUT IN SPITE OF THAT MORE THAN 1,800 TO DATE, IN HIS FACEBOOK SUPPORT GROUP, ALMOST ALL OF THOSE KNEW FRANK PERSONALLY AND THEY SPEAK OF HIM WITH AFFECTION, THIS SPECIAL MAN WITH A LOT OF INFLUENCE. I REALLY WOULD ENCOURAGE A LOT OF PEOPLE TO READ SOME OF THOSE, THOUSANDS OF STORIES. AGAIN, THESE PEOPLE THAT KNEW HIM WELL. AND TO DECIDE, TO CALL HIM A RACIST, AND I THINK EVERYONE WILL APPRECIATE AND FIND SOME HUMOR IN THIS. HIS FIRST WIFE WAS JEWISH. AND YEARS LATER, SOMONE WAS INTERVIEWING HIM AND THEY TOOK OFFENSE TO HIM AND SAID QUOTE IF YOU REALLY NEED TO GET SOMETHING DONE, GIVE IT TO A PRETTY MEXICAN WOMAN. AND THE PERSON WAS OFFENDED AND THEY PROBABLY DID NOT REALIZE THAT HE HAPPENED TO BE MARRIED TO A PRETTY MEXICAN WOMAN. THAT PROBABLY DID NOT HELP HIS CREDITIAL IN NOT BEING RACIST. BUT SECTION 14 WAS A TERRIBLY DIFFICULT SITUATION. AND SADLY, IS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT HAS PLAYED OUT THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF TIMES, NOT JUST ACROSS THE COUNTRY, BUT AROUND THE WORLD. WHEN I WAS A PALM SPRINGS PLANNING COMMISSIONER, A PHRASE THAT WOULD COME UP, AT SIMILARLY DIFFICULT TIMES WAS THE GREATEST GOOD, FOR THE GREATEST NUMBER. AND THAT SORT OF PATH IS WHY WE HAVE EMINENT DOMAIN. IT'S A LEGAL PRINCIPAL WHICH ALLOWS THE DEVELOPMENT TO BE DONE WITH THE GREATEST GOOD FOR THE GREATEST NUMBER AND SOMETIMES IT IS A VERY PAINFUL PROCESS. AND THIS PRINCIPAL WAS IMPLEMENTED TO ACCOMMODATE DIFFICULT SITUATIONS LIKE SECTION 14. AND IN THIS CASE, THE SECTION 14 RESIDENTS WERE OF ILLEGAL STATUS OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME AND THOSE EVICTIONS DID NOT HAPPEN OVERNIGHT. YOU HAVE LOTS OF HISTORY AND THERE IS A LOT MORE AVAILABLE TO CONFIRM THIS. AND MUCH OF THIS WILL BE PART OF THE RECORD OF THIS MEETING. I SENT IN QUITE A BIT TO THE CITY CLERK. AND THE PALM SPRINGS HISTORICAL SOCIETY HAS VOLUMES ON THIS TOPIC. AND BY THE WAY, A PALM SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT RECORD IN 1961, THERE WAS A REPORT STATED THAT THERE WERE 115 FAMILIES OF COLOR THAT WERE DISPLACED BY THE ACTIONS. BUT THERE WERE 321 WHITE FAMILIES DISPLACED, BUT THAT'S SORT OF AN ODD PROPORTION FOR SOMETHING THAT SAID THAT WAS RACIALLY MOTIVATED. AND I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT IT WAS A TREMENDOUS HARDSHIP, AND IT WAS A WOEFULLY TRAGIC EXPERIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE THAT WERE INVOLVED. BUT IT HAD TO BE DONE. AND IT WAS NOT DONE AT THE SOLE ASSISTANCE OF FRANK BOGERT, WHO IS THE VILLAN OF CHOICE TODAY. IT WAS DONE BY AND WITH THE CITY OFFICIALS AND THE LANDOWNERS AND THE AGUA CALIENTE TRIBE WHO PRIMARILY WANTED TO DEVELOP THE LAND AND HAD EVERYTHING TO GAIN AND PRIMARILY BY ANOTHER WONDERFUL PIONEER WHO FINALLY CONVINCED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW 99 YEAR LEASES. THERE IS AN EXCELLENT BOOK BY THE WAY, YOU CAN'T EAT DIRT, THAT SPENDS A LOT OF TIME ON THIS EXACT TOPIC. IN FACT, THE FIRST PROJECT, ONCE IT WAS CLEARED WAS A HOTEL AND IT WAS A MASSIVE SHOT IN THE ARM FOR DOWNTOWN PALM SPRINGS AND THE FUTURE IMAGE OF THE CITY. AGAIN, IT WAS A COLLECTIVE EFFORT. FRANK DID NOT ACT ON HIS OWN WITHOUT THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS PARTICIPATION IN IT. HE DID NOT HAVE THAT POWER, THAT IS ANOTHER FACT. AND THIS REALLY HIT A SORE POINT WITH A LOT OF US THAT HAVE LIVED HERE

FOR MANY DECADES AND HAVE HELPED BUILD THE CITY. WE FEEL THAT OUR HISTORY AS BEING GROSSLY MISREPRESENTED. IT TAKES A LONG TIME, TO BE HONORED WITH THE INSULT OF DESERT RED AND EVEN HAVE THE TERM LONGTERM RESIDENT BE ADDED TO YOUR NAME AND A LOT OF US CARRY THOSE TERMS WITH A FIERCE PRIDE. I KNOW THAT WE ARE IN DIFFICULT TIMES BUT WE FEEL THAT THIS CANNOT BE HANDLED BY ZOOM MEETING. MY FIRST HOPE IS THAT THE DOCUMENTATED FACTS ARE SAID AND I JUST WANT THE FACTS TO BE EXAMINED AND THAT THE STATUTE REMAINS WHERE IT IS AND IF THIS GOES TO A MORE FORMAL VENUE WHERE WE CAN SHOW OUR SUPPORT FOR FRANK AND THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS WILL NOT COME CLOSE. I THINK WE HAVE A GREAT POLICE DEPARTMENT. OH, ALSO, AND I HAD A GREAT RELATIONSHIP WITH REVEREND ROLLINS WHEN I WAS THE ARCHITECT FOR DESERT HIGHLAND. THAT IS A GREAT COMMUNITY UP THERE AND I HOPE THAT WE CAN IMPROVE THE RELATIONSHIPS. MY RELATIONSHIP WAS ALWAYS GREAT. I WOULD SUGGEST THAT EVERYONE NOT FOCUS ON TEARING EVERYTHING DOWN BUT TRY BUILDING THINGS UP. THAT IS NOT SO EASY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME.

**KARENA:** HI. MY NAME IS KARENA. I AM A LOCAL FROM THE COACHELLA VALLEY, BORN AND RAISED ON THE EAST END OF THE VALLEY. I'M MEXICAN, EQUADORIAN AND FILIPINO, SO LOTS OF CULTURE THERE. I AM ACTUALLY CALLING TO SHARE A LITTE OF MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE. SORRY, I AM GETTING EMOTIONAL. WITH MY WORK IN PALM SPRINGS. I USED TO WORK AT THE PALM SPRINGS ART MUSEUM. AND I DON'T KNOW WHY I AM SO EMOTIONAL, SORRY. WHILE I WORKED THERE, WE HAD THIS INCREDIBLE EXHIBIT FILLED WITH LOTS OF BEAUTIFUL INDIGENOUS ARTISTS. AT THAT TIME, I'M NOT SURE WHAT HAPPENED, BUT ONE OF THE INDIGENOUS WOMEN, THE ARTIST, SHE CAME AND SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE LIKE A COMMUNITY WORKSHOP. SOMETHING HAPPENED AND SHE ASKED TO CANCEL HER CONTRACT. I DON'T KNOW, THERE ARE NO SPECIFICS. SHE CANCELED HER CONTRACT, AND SHE ASKED FOR HER ART TO BE PULLED. THERE WAS NO, AGAIN I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS, BUT THE SENTIMENT OF WORKING AT THE MUSEUM KIND OF DROPPED ESPECIALLY FOR WOMEN, BROWN WOMEN. I TRIED TO BRING IT UP TO HR. AND WHEN I BROUGHT IT TO HR, I WAS TOLD THAT THEY CANNOT BELIEVE THAT SOMEONE WOULD BE RACIST TOWARDS ME. AND I JUST THINK THAT WHEN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT WAYS TO MOVE FORWARD AND SOMEONE MENTIONS ABOUT CULTURE AND ART AND KIND OF THE RELATIONSHIP THAT THE CITY COUNCIL HAS WITH THE PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS THAT ARE BIG IN THEIR CITY, WHEN I THINK OF PALM SPRINGS I DO THINK OF THE PALM SPRINGS ART MUSEUM AND THE TOURISM THAT THAT MUSEUM BRINGS AND HOW ANGRY I AM AT THEM STILL. WHEN I WAS IN MY EXIT INTERVIEW, I MENTIONED THAT THEY DID NOT DO ANYTHING TO TALK ABOUT RACE AND INCLUSION EVEN THOUGH I DID SPEAK TO ALL OF THE MANAGERS THERE. AND I WILL SAY THAT THERE IS SOME INCREDIBLE PEOPLE THAT USED TO WORK THERE, I'M NOT SURE WHO WORKS THERE ANYMORE. BUT THEY JUST KIND OF CANCELED ALL CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACE AND DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION. AND THEN WHEN I TOLD HR IN MY INTERVIEW ABOUT THAT, THEY SAID WELL, WE DON'T SEE COLOR. WE CAN'T. YOU KNOW. IT WAS KIND OF A DISMISSING OF THE KIND OF CONVERSATION THAT I WANTED THERE. SO, I JUST WANTED TO BRING THAT TO THE CITY COUNCIL AND HOPE THAT WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT DOING BUSINESS WITH THE PALM SPRINGS ART MUSEUM, THAT THEY THINK ABOUT THE PAIN THAT THEY BRING TO EMPLOYEES AND LOCALS. AND I KNOW OTHER PEOPLE EXPERIENCED THINGS LIKE ME AND THEY ARE VERY SCARED OF RETALIATION FROM THE BOARD. I FOUND THAT REALLY SADDENING. HOW THESE INDIVIDUALS AND SOME HAVE BEEN LET GO NOW AND I TELL THEM TO SPEAK UP

AND THEY TELL ME THAT THEY FEAR RETALIATION. WHICH MAKES ME NERVOUS BECAUSE I'M HERE, I MOVED BACK AFTER 17 YEARS AWAY, I WAS IN THE BIG CITIES AND I DO WANT TO BE A PART OF THE CHANGE OF PALM SPRINGS AND THE REST OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY. ESPECIALLY FOR ME BEING LATINA AND THE THINGS THAT WE HAVE TO FACE WITH OUR OWN RACISM AND THE BLACK COMMUNITY AND THESE ARE ALL THINGS THAT I WANT TO BE APART OF. SO, I JUST WANTED TO SHARE MY OWN PERSONAL EXPERIENCE THAT I'VE HAD IN PALM SPRINGS. BYE.

**CAROL DAVIS:** MY NAME IS CAROL DAVIS, AND I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS. I SERVED ON THE PARKS AND REC COMMISSION FOR ABOUT SIX YEARS, I SERVED ON THE BLACK HISTORY SUBCOMMITTEE FOR ABOUT SEVEN YEARS. AND I JUST HAVE BEEN A PART OF THIS COMMUNITY. I FIRST WOULD LIKE TO START AND SPEAK ON THE POLICE. I HAVE ATTENDED A MEETING, OR SEVERAL MEETINGS, AT THE GATEWAY DESERT HIGHLAND COMMUNITY MEETING. I THINK ONE OF THE PAST SPEAKERS TALKED ABOUT HOW ONE OF THE, OR SOME OF THE OFFICERS WHEN THEY CAME TO THOSE MEETINGS, THEY DON'T GIVE THE SAME RESPECT THAT THEY GIVE TO OTHER MEETINGS WHERE YOU MIGHT SEE THEM THROUGHOUT THE CITY. AND AT THIS ONE PARTICULAR MEETING, THAT I WAS A PART OF, THERE WAS IT WAS AT A TIME WHEN THERE WAS A MURDER. I GUESS THE POLICE OFFICERS WERE NOT ABLE, OR STILL HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO SOLVE THE MURDER AND THEY WERE FRUSTRATED AND YOU COULD SEE THE FRUSTRATION FROM THE MOMENT THAT THEY WALKED INTO THAT ROOM. WHEN THEY WALKED IN THAT ROOM, THAT ROOM WAS INTIMIDATING, THEY CAME OUT AND WERE SOFT-SPOKEN IN THE BEGINNING, AND AS THE MEETING WENT ON IT WAS MORE ABOUT HOW PEOPLE ARE RESPONSIBLE TO COME OUT AND TO HELP THEM SOLVE THESE PROBLEMS, AND IF THEY DON'T HELP THEM SOLVE THESE PROBLEMS, THESE PROBLEMS WILL NOT BE SOLVED. AND IT GOT TO A POINT WHERE ONE OF OUR ELDER RESIDENTS SPOKE TO THEM AND SAID THAT THEY DON'T FEEL SAFE COMING TO THEM OR EVEN CALLING THEM BECAUSE THEY HAVE HAD A SITUATION WHERE THEY HAVE CALLED THE POLICE AND TOLD THEM BEFORE THEY CAME OUT, WHEN YOU COME OUT DO NOT COME TO MY DOOR. DO NOT COME TO MY DOOR BECAUSE I LIVE IN THIS COMMUNITY, EVERYBODY IN THIS COMMUNITY KNOWS ME. I AM AN ELDERLY PERSON, WHO LIVES IN THIS HOME ALONE. DO NOT COME TO MY DOOR. WHAT DO THEY DO? THE MINUTE THAT THEY CAME OUT THEY CAME AND KNOCKED ON THE DOOR AND ASKED THEM WHAT WAS ON GOING THROUGH EVERYTHING THAT THEY SPOKE ABOUT ON THE PHONE, AND THEREFORE THEY DID NOT FEEL SAFE. NOW I DON'T KNOW IF THIS HAPPENS ALL THE TIME. BUT THE REASON WHY AM BRINGING THIS UP IS BECAUSE OF THE DISCONNECT. I UNDERSTAND HOW EVERYONE IS TRYING TO COME TOGETHER AND TALK IN REASON, THIS THAT AND THE OTHER. BUT IF YOU HAVE PEOPLE THAT ARE JUST THERE TO POLICE AND NOT UNDERSTAND THE COMMUNITY AND DON'T WANT TO BE THERE, THERE IS NO NEED TO SEND THEM OUT. BECAUSE IT IS ONLY GOING TO BE BACK AND FORTH AND BACK AND FORTH, BUTTING HEADS. BACK WHEN MY KIDS WERE YOUNGER, MY EX-HUSBAND AND I WERE PART OF THE POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE. OUR KIDS PARTICIPATED WITH POLICE OFFICERS, OFFICER KUNZ AND JAVIER GARCIA RAN THE PROGRAMS. THESE KIDS WERE DIVERSE. YOU HAD KIDS WHO CAME FROM MEANS, KIDS THAT DID NOT COME FROM MEANS, PEOPLE THAT WERE WORKING-CLASS, BUT THESE PARENTS CAME TOGETHER TO HELP COACH. THESE KIDS KNEW THE POLICE OFFICERS, THEY HAD THEIR CELL PHONE NUMBERS. THESE OFFICERS CHECKED UP ON THEM AT SCHOOL, THEY PRACTICED WITH THEM EVERY WEEK. SO, IF THEY HAD PROBLEMS, THEY HAD A CONNECTION. SINCE THIS DISCONNECT, YOU JUST WANT TO POLICE AND YOU KNOW IT JUST DOES NOT WORK. I THINK THAT IS WHAT REALLY HELPED. SO THAT

IS ONE OF THE THINGS. AS FAR AS I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK ABOUT THE STATUE. I MEAN, IF WE MOVE THE STATUE, WE MOVE THE STATUE BUT IF WE DON'T TELL THE TRUTH, TELL THE WHOLE TRUTH. BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT IS WRONG WITH OUR HISTORY AS IT IS. WE WANT TO SEPARATE BLACK HISTORY FROM AMERICAN HISTORY. AND IT IS ALL OF OUR HISTORY BUT WE WANT TO HALFWAY ONE SIDE IT. TELL THE TRUTH. THAT IS IT. WHEN WE BRING OUR KIDS IN FRONT OF THE CITY HALL, THE PLACE OF THE PEOPLE AND OUR KIDS ARE ON FIELD TRIPS AND STANDING IN FRONT OF THAT STATUTE TAKING PICTURES, THEY NEED TO KNOW WHO THIS PERSON IS. NOT JUST ONE SIDE OF IT. THAT IS ALL THAT I HAVE TO SAY. OH, ONE MORE THING BEFORE YOU CUT ME OFF. I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK ABOUT THE WHOLE RECOGNITION OF PEOPLE OF COLOR IN THE CITY AND LAWRENCE CROSSLEY. YOU KNOW, WE JUST HAD THAT MURAL PAINTED, OF GEORGE FLOYD. NOW GEORGE FLOYD IS NOT FROM HERE, THIS IS TRUE. BUT WHY IS THAT THE ONLY THING THAT WE HAVE TO LOOK AT IN PALM SPRINGS OF SOMEBODY OF COLOR? YOU KNOW, WHEN I PASS BY, IT IS LIKE A SHOCK WHEN I GET TO THE LIGHT THERE. AND THEN ONCE I PASS IT, I HAVE TO SMILE BECAUSE THAT IS THE ONLY THING THAT WE HAVE. AND WE GO BACK AND FORTH ABOUT THE LAWRENCE CROSSLEY NAME, WHERE ARE WE AT IN THE HISTORICAL SIDE? WHEN YOU GO DOWNTOWN AND ASK SOMEBODY ABOUT WHERE BLACK PEOPLE ARE IN THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, THEY HAVE TO GO DIG IN THE ARCHIVES. YOU HAVE TO COME BACK NEXT WEEK. WE ARE NOT THERE. AND IF THE ONLY THING THAT WE HAVE TO GO BACK TO IS SECTION 14, WE ARE BIGGER THAN THAT, WE ARE BETTER THAN THAT, WE ARE MORE THAN THAT. SO THAT IS BASICALLY ALL THAT I HAVE TO SAY. BUT I DO HAVE TO THANK THE COUNCIL PEOPLE FOR PUTTING THIS TOGETHER. I'M GLAD THAT EVERYBODY HAS FOUND IT IMPORTANT TO SHOW UP. SO, THANK YOU.

**JILSKA CHANDRASENA** - THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR GIVING US THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO THE CITY COUNCIL. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THE WONDERFUL JOB YOU GUYS ARE DOING. AS A RESIDENT OF PALM SPRINGS, FOR THE LAST TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS, LOOKING AT RACISM, BEING ALSO AN IMMIGRANT, A PERSON OF COLOR LIVING HERE FOR THE LAST TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS. I DO FEEL, I REALLY FEEL THE PAIN THAT OUR MINORITY COMMUNITY ARE SPEAKING WITH. IT IS HISTORY. YESTERDAY WAS HISTORY, TOMORROW IS A MYSTERY. WE HAVE TO LIVE IN THE PRESENT. AND WE ARE FACED WITH SO MANY CHALLENGES IN OUR PRESENT. OUR CHILDREN ARE ASKING US QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PRESENT. WE CANNOT HAVE HISTORY THAT HAS GIVEN US SO MUCH PAIN. WE NEED TO MOVE PAST THAT. SO THAT IS SOMETHING, I THINK IT IS COMMON SENSE TO ASK OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO ARE INVESTED IN THIS COMMUNITY TO LOOK AT THE PAIN AND HEAR THE PAIN OF THE MINORITY COMMUNITY. AND DO WHAT IS RESPONSIBLE. BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW WHAT TOMORROW IS GOING TO BRING. MY NEXT CONCERN, IN MY CITY, BEING SIX YEARS SERVING THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS AS A HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER, BEEN AN ADVOCATE FOR THE DISABLED AND FOCUSING ON MENTAL HEALTH IN OUR COMMUNITY, MY NEXT CONCERN FOR MY COMMUNITY IS OUR HOMELESS POPULATION AND OF MENTAL HEALTH IN OUR COMMUNITY. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT. WE ARE ASKING, WE HAVE HAD MANY PEOPLE SPEAK AND JANEL, YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL STORY. WE'VE HEARD THESE PEOPLE TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH, THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. IT IS NOT ABOUT CHANGING, IT IS NOT ABOUT DEFUNDING, IT IS NOT ABOUT DISTRUCTIVE THINGS BUT WE NEED TO CHANGE THE GAME. WE HAVE TO CHANGE THE MODEL OF SERVICES THAT WE PROVIDE FOR THIS CITY. AND MENTAL HEALTH IS RIGHT ON TOP OF THE KNIFE. IF WE DO NOT ADDRESS MENTAL HEALTH IN OUR COMMUNITY THIS CITY WOULD LOSE A LOT OF

FINANCES. THERE WILL BE SO MUCH FIDUCIARY ABUSE WITHIN US. I AM JUST SPEAKING ABOUT THE PEOPLE THAT I SERVE AS A MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL, WHO ARE ON PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS IT IS SUCH A DSTRUCTIVE THING THAT I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT SUCH A SMALL CITY, SUCH A SMALL COMMUNITY, HAS SO MUCH GOING TO THE STREETS. OUR HOMELESS POPULATION, 60% OF OUR HOMELESS POPOULATION ARE NOT REGISTERED VOTERS IN OUR CITY, THEY ARE OUT OF OUR CITIES. SO, WE HAVE OUR CANNABIS SHOPS TAKING SOCIAL SECURITY CHECKS, EBT CARDS, AND THEY ARE TAKING THE CANNABIS TO THE HOMELESS POPULATIONS. AGAIN, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT WHERE THE LAW ENFORCEMENT, WHERE THE INVESTIGATIONS ARE BUT IT IS A VERY DIRE SITUATION. WE NEED TO ADDRESS THESE THINGS AS A COMMUNITY. MENTAL HEALTH, WE NEED TO HAVE MENTAL HEALTH TASK FORCE. OUR POLICE STAFF HAVE TO DO POLICE THINGS BUT WE NEED TO HAVE A SYSTEMATIC CHANGE IN HOW WE DEAL WITH THE WELLNESS CHECKS IN OUR POPULATION. WE NEED TO HAVE PEOPLE WHO ARE, WHO HAVE THE ABILITY TO GO OUT AND LOOK AT OUR MENTAL HEALTH POPULATION AND FOCUS ON THE HOMELESS POPULATION IN THAT CATEGORY OF THE MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS AS A COMMUNITY, THIS IS SOMETHING THAT WE NEED TO DO. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

**ORON JACKSON:** HI, HOW ARE YOU? I HAVE HEARD A LOT FROM THE PARTICIPANTS ABOUT MOVING FORWARD. I GUESS GETTING PAST THE PAST. IT IS DIFFICULT TO MOVE FORWARD IF WE FAIL TO ADDRESS THE SINS OF THE PAST. AND TELL THE TRUTH. I HEARD A GENTLEMAN SPEAK OF FRANK BOGERT IN HIGH REGARD. HE ALSO MENTIONED SECTION 14. HE TALKED ABOUT DOING GOOD FOR THE GREATEST AMOUNT OF PEOPLE. FRANK BOGERT HAS RACISM ATTACHED TO HIM, THAT IS WELL DOCUMENTED. THE ATROCITIES THAT TOOK PLACE ON SECTION 14 ARE WELL DOCUMENTED. AND AS THIS PERSON JUSTIFIED THIS YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT THESE PEOPLE WHO WERE MOVED FROM SECTION 14 AS DIETER CRAWFORD SO ELIQUENTLY STATED BUT THE LAND DEEDS DID NOT ALLOW THESE FOLKS TO GO OUT TO THE COMMUNITY AND PURCHASE HOMES. MANY OF THESE FOLKS MOVED TO THE RIVERSIDE AREA, BANNING, AND SOME OF THE OTHER AREAS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF PALM SPRINGS. THIS HITS HOME WITH ME BECAUSE MY GRANDMOTHER WAS THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN PERSON TO PURCHASE A HOME IN DESERT HIGHLAND AREA IN 1958. AND AT THAT TIME, THAT WAS CONSIDERED COUNTY LAND. HAD A FEW RESIDENTS, BUT THEY WERE ALL WHITE. AND AS MY UNCLE, WHO WAS A VETERAN, HE COULD NOT SECURE A LOAN FOR THIS PARTICULAR AREA. HE ACTUALLY HAD TO GO TO LOS ANGELES AND RECEIVE A LOAN THERE. AND WHEN FOLKS WANTED TO VIEW THE LAND MANY TIMES, THEY WOULD HAVE TO TAKE THEM OUT THERE AT NIGHT TO AVOID SCRUTINY FROM THE OTHER RESIDENTS. AND WHEN THEY WERE ABLE TO SECURE LOANS WHEN THEY WERE ABLE TO BEGIN BUILDING, THE RESIDENTS RAN THE BUILDERS OFF OF THE LAND. MY GRANDMOTHER HAD TO GET THEM TO COME BACK AND OF COURSE, ONCE THEY WERE ABLE TO BUILD THIS PROPERTY, OTHER AFRICAN-AMERICANS BEGAN TO COME TO THE COMMUNITY AND AS HISTORY GENERALLY TELLS US ONCE THAT HAPPENS THERE'S A SITUATION CALLED WHITE FLIGHT THAT TAKES PLACE. AND AS THESE PEOPLE IN THESE COMMUNITIES MOVE FORWARD, ITS BEEN AT LEAST TWICE, PARTICULARLY I REMEMBER A TIME IN THE 1980S, EMINENT DOMAIN, AGAIN THE GENTLEMAN TALKED ABOUT DOING THE GREATER GOOD FOR THE GREATEST AMOUNT OF PEOPLE. I FOUND THAT TO BE AN INTERESTING STATEMENT, GIVEN THE FACT THAT THIS COMMUNITY IS IN THE NORTH END THE MOST NORTHERN PART OF THE CITY. AND WHY THAT LAND WOULD BE EVEN CONSIDERED FOR EMINENT DOMAIN. SO, UNTIL WE ADDRESS SOME OF THE SINS OF THE PAST, IT IS KIND OF LIKE DROPPING BRICKS ON SOMEBODY'S HEAD AND TELLING THEM THAT IT IS RAINING. AND ABOVE ALL, ONCE THIS WHITE

FLIGHT TOOK PLACE IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD YOU KNOW IT REALLY CREATED A SITUATION CALLED RED LINING. I KNOW YOU ALL ARE PROBABLY NOT FAMILIAR WITH THAT. SO, WHEN WE TALK ABOUT SEGREGATION, THE REDLINING CREATED SEGREGATION IN THE CITY. AND THOSE INSTITUTIONAL PRACTICES REALLY DREW THE LINE BETWEEN THE HAVE AND HAVE NOT. WE NO LONGER NEED TO SEGREGATE PEOPLE IN THIS COMMUNITY. IT IS DONE THROUGH REDLINING. SO, YOU KNOW, MAYBE SOMEHOW, WE CAN FIND A WAY TO CREATE SOME OPPORTUNITIES, AS MS. CRAWFORD SO ELOQUENTLY PUT IT. JUST THE SITUATION OF EQUITY, AND IN TERMS OF THE POLICING IN THE CITY, THAT HAS ALSO BEEN WELL DOCUMENTED OVER TIME. AND I JUST WANT TO SHARE ONE THING WITH YOU BEFORE I GO. MY COUSIN WHO IS ON THE LINE RIGHT NOW. HIS MOTHER CALLED THE POLICE ON HER OWN SON BECAUSE HE WAS ON DRUGS AND HAD DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIOR. SHE REALLY THOUGHT BY INCARCERATING HIM THAT THIS WOULD GIVE HIM AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET CLEAN. IT WOULD GIVE HIM AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAYBE EVEN MOVE ON WITH HIS LIFE BY RECEIVING SOME HELP. AND SO, WHEN THEY PICKED HIM UP, THEY TOLD HIM WHO CALLED THE POLICE ON HIM. SO AS CAROL DAVIS TALKED ABOUT THE LACK OF COMMUNICATION, POSSIBLY THE DISTRUST, IT IS THOSE SITUATIONS THAT ARE ALSO WELL DOCUMENTED. WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO GO OVER ALL OF THOSE THAT CREATES RISK IN THE COMMUNITY AND THOSE THAT ARE PROTECTING THE COMMUNITY. THANK YOU.

**CORRINE GRISWOLD:** HI. I JUST RETIRED AS A TEACHER FROM RAYMOND CREE MIDDLE SCHOOL WHICH I WAS REALLY SORRY TO QUIT. I QUIT BECAUSE OF THE VIRUS; I REALLY LOVE TEACHING THERE. AND I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE BUILDING OFF OF WHAT CAROL DAVIS SAID, TO PUT UP A STATUE OF LAWRENCE CROSSLEY. IN FACT, MOST OF WHAT I KNOW ABOUT LAWRENCE CROSSLEY BESIDES THAT HE BUILT MOST OF THE CROSSLEY TRACK. THIS IS FROM FRANK BOGERT'S BOOK. HE CAME HERE IN 1924. HE WAS AN INVESTOR IN HOTELS, HE BUILT THE CROSSLEY TRACK. HE DESIGNED GOLF COURSES. SO, I THINK THAT THERE SHOULD BE A MONUMENT IN PALM SPRINGS AND THROUGH CITY HALL TO SOMEBODY LIKE LAWRENCE CROSSLEY. THAT IS PRETTY MUCH WHAT I WANTED TO SUGGEST. THANK YOU.

**KAREN JOY:** OKAY. I JUST WANTED TO LET PEOPLE KNOW THAT IT IS NOT ONLY THE BLACK COMMUNITY THAT GET STOPPED WHEN THEY ARE ON PAROLE. MY SON IS NO ANGEL, BUT HE WAS IN JAIL FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS AND HONESTLY, EVEN WHEN HE WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL, BECAUSE HE IS VERY TALL. HE IS 6'8". HE STANDS OUT IN THE CROWD. AND THE COPS ARE CONSTANTLY PICKING HIM UP, CONSTANTLY. IT IS A HARASSMENT. HE HAS A 12-YEAR-OLD SON. WHEN HIS SON IS IN THE CAR WITH HIM, HE IS SCARED TO DEATH EVERY TIME HE SEES THE COP CAR. HE THINKS THAT THE COP IS GOING TO TAKE HIS DAD TO JAIL. SO IT IS NOT ONLY BLACK PEOPLE. I THINK THAT THE POLICE SHOULD HAVE BETTER THINGS TO DO THAN TO ACTUALLY PICK ON PEOPLE THAT MAY HAVE NOT BEEN PERFECT CITIZENS. BUT HE HAS A GOOD HEART AND THERE IS NO REASON FOR THIS. THAT IS ALL THAT I'VE GOT TO SAY.

**ANDREA ROMERO:** OKAY. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HAVING THIS AND FOR OPENING THE DISCUSSION ON RACE RELATIONS IN OUR COMMUNITY. I AM ANDREA ROMERO, I AM 26 YEARS OLD, I AM A FIRST-GENERATION LATINA. I'M THE FIRST PERSON IN MY FAMILY TO GO TO COLLEGE. AND LAST AUGUST I MOVED TO PALM SPRINGS BECAUSE I GOT AN INTERNSHIP WITH THE ART MUSEUM. AND SO, I WAS REALLY EXCITED, THIS WAS MY FIRST REAL INTERNSHIP AFTER COLLEGE. AND AFTER MY

INTERNSHIP I WAS HIRED FULL TIME, THIS WAS MY FIRST REAL JOB AFTER COLLEGE, I REALLY FELT LIKE I WAS GETTING MY LIFE GOING. I GOT MY FIRST APARTMENT I SPENT ALL OF MY SAVINGS MOVING TO PALM SPRINGS. BUT UNFORTUNATELY, UNDER THE MANAGEMENT THAT CAME ON LAST AUGUST TO THE PALM SPRINGS ART MUSEUM, ENDED UP BEING A REALLY TOXIC SPACE, ESPECIALLY FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR. I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY HOW SPECIFIC I NEED TO GET. BUT I WILL SAY THAT YOU KNOW, THERE ARE A LOT OF EMPLOYEES THAT HAVE BEEN SUFFERING. THERE A LOT OF EMPLOYEES THAT WILL NOT SPEAK UP, EVEN AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN FURLOUGHED, EVEN AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN FIRED. BECAUSE, YOU KNOW, THEY DON'T WANT TO LOSE THEIR JOBS. THERE ARE NOT A LOT OF JOB SECURITY IN THE DESERT FOR ARTS PEOPLE BECAUSE THERE IS ONLY ONE MUSEUM. SO THAT MUSEUM IS BEING UNJUST, ESPECIALLY TO THE MARGINALIZED COMMUNITY I REALLY FEEL WE REALLY NEED TO DO MORE. WE NEED TO PUT MORE PRESSURE ON THIS INSTITUTION. THIS INSTITUTION REPRESENTS THE ENTIRE COACHELLA VALLEY, THIS IS THE LEADING ART INSTITUTION IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY. AND YOU KNOW, AS AN ART INSTITUTION, THAT SITS ON SACRED CAHUILLA LAND THERE SHOULD BE NO TOLERANCE OF ANY KIND OF INSTITUTIONAL RACISM ON ANY LEVEL. AND WITH MY EXPERIENCE THERE, I FOUND THAT HR DOES NOT PROTECT EMPLOYEES. IT ONLY PROTECTS THE EXECUTIVE STAFF. I DEALT WITH MICRO AGGRESSIONS FOR MONTHS AND THEN FINALLY I REQUESTED A MEETING WITH HR. FOUR DAYS LATER, I WAS FIRED OVER EMAIL. AND YEAH, THAT WAS IN OCTOBER AND ITS BEEN A HARD HEALING PROCESS. I DON'T KNOW IF I WILL EVER WANT TO WORK IN A MUSEUM AGAIN, EVEN THOUGH THIS HAS BEEN MY CAREER PATH FOR YEARS. IT IS REALLY HARD BECAUSE, YOU KNOW, UNLESS YOU ARE IN THE MUSEUM, UNLESS YOU WORK THERE, YOU ARE A VOLUNTEER, PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND THE KIND OF RELATIONSHIPS AND THE KINDS OF TENSION OF EVERYTHING THAT IS GOING ON UNDER THE SURFACE. AGAIN, THE NEW MANAGEMENT, THE NEW CEO, THE NEW CHIEF CURATOR, I WAS THERE BEFORE AND I WAS THERE AFTER THEY CAME ON. AND I FELT THE SHIFT IMMEDIATELY. YOU KNOW, THE MUSEUM WAS NEVER PERFECT TO BEGIN WITH. BUT SHORTLY AFTER, AFTER THESE PEOPLE CAME ON, IT GREW MORE AND MORE TOXIC. THERE IS SO MUCH EVIDENCE OF THAT. BUT I DON'T KNOW IF HR IS RECORDING ALL OF THIS. I DON'T THINK SO, CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT WHEN I WENT TO THEM FOR HELP, THEY FIRED ME ON BEHALF OF THE PERSON THAT I WAS EXPERIENCING MICRO-AGGRESSION FROM. SO, THIS IS REALLY JUST UNETHICAL. THIS IS SOMETHING THAT REALLY NEEDS TO BE AUDITED. MUSEUMS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY ARE RAISING THEIR STANDARDS. THEY ARE PLEDING TO TAKE ACTION BEYOND WORDS. THEY ARE COMING OUT WITH CONCRETE PLANS TO MAKE SURE THAT INSTITUTIONAL RACISM IS NEVER AGAIN PRESENT YOU KNOW IN THESE ENVIRONMENTS. THESE ARE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS. THESE ARE COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTS. AND THIS MUSEUM, AGAIN, IT SITS ON SACRED CAHUILIA LAND. SO WHERE IS THE JUSTICE FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR? THAT ARE SUFFERING BECAUSE OF THIS INSTITUTION. THIS INSTITUTION HAS NATIVE AMERICAN ART ALL OVER THEIR WALLS. THEY PRIDE THEMSELVES ON HAVING A MEXICAN MODERNIST COLLECTION THAT ARE COMPARABLE TO SOME OF THE BEST COLLECTIONS IN THE COUNTRY. SO WHY DO THEY TREAT THEIR EMPLOYEES OF COLOR LIKE TRASH? THAT IS MY QUESTION. THE OTHER QUESTION IS, WHY DO THEY KEEP GETTING AWAY WITH IT? I KNOW THAT I'M NOT THE ONLY PERSON THAT HAS COMPLAINED ABOUT THE MUSEUM. BUT FOR SOME REASON, NOTHING EVER CHANGES. WHENEVER SOMEBODY DOES FEEL BRAVE ENOUGH TO SPEAK UP, THEY MIGHT GET AN APOLOGY AT BEST. AND THEN EVERYTHING IS SWEEPED UNDER THE RUG ALL OVER AGAIN. WHEN I GOT FIRED IN OCTOBER, I DID NOT HAVE MONEY TO MOVE BACK HOME UNTIL JANUARY.

I DEPLETED MY SAVINGS. I HAD TO BREAK MY LEASE WITH MY FIRST APARTMENT THAT I EVER HAD. NOW I AM IN DEBT THAT IS NOW IN COLLECTION, THAT I DON'T KNOW WHEN I WILL BE ABLE TO PAY BACK AND AGAIN THIS IS A CONSEQUENCE OF HAVING TOXIC MANAGEMENT, TOXIC PEOPLE IN LEADERSHIP. THIS IS THE CONSEQUENCE OF HAVING AN HR DEPARTMENT THAT IS NOT ADHERING TO LAWS, TO STANDARDS. THERE IS A WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY RIGHT? SO I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT TWO PEOPLE WHO OVERHEARD HOW MANAGEMENT WAS TREATING ME ON DAILY BASIS, HOW THEY WERE TALKING TO ME, AS THE TUTORIAL ASSISTANT, THEY OVERHEARD AND I KNOW FOR FACT THAT TWO PEOPLE, THAT HAD BEEN THERE FOR YEARS BEFORE ME, THEY BOTH COMPLAINED UNANIMOUSLY TO HR. THEY COMPLAINED TO HR. AND THAT IS WHAT GAVE ME THE COURAGE TO GO AFTER MONTHS OF EXPERIENCING THESE AGGRESSIONS AND TO GO TO HR AND SAY HEY, YOU KNOW SOMETHING IS HAPPENING. AND YOU KNOW WHAT, I'M NOT OKAY. AND YOU KNOW WHAT, THIS IS MY FIRST JOB EVER. THIS IS MY FIRST REAL JOB; I DID NOT WANT TO LOSE THAT JOB. I PUT UP WITH SO MUCH. I PUT UP WITH MY MANAGER ASKING ME IF I HAD EVER FINISHED A COLLEGE PAPER. AND MANY OTHER THINGS. ANYWAY, I WILL WRAP IT UP. I REALLY WANT TO SEE THE MUSEUM AUDITED BY A THIRD PARTY. HR IS UPHOLDING WHITE SUPREMACY; THEY ARE UPHOLDING RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION. LASTLY, JUST TO PULL IT ALL TOGETHER, THE ONLY PEOPLE IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS NOW, THERE ARE NO MINORITIES THERE IN POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP. THERE IS NO ONE THERE TO REPRESENT PEOPLE LIKE ME. AS THE CHIEF CURATOR AND THE ONLY CURATOR LEFT RIGHT NOW, SHE IS A WHITE WOMAN. SHE IS A CURATOR OF NATIVE AMERICAN ART AND HAS BEEN FOR THE LAST TWENTY-THREE YEARS BECAUSE NOTHING EVER CHANGES AT THIS MUSEUM. SO, I WANT TO SEE THE MUSEUM AUDITED. I WANT TO SEE THE CITY PUTTING PRESSURE ON THE MUSEUM. I WANT HR AUDITED BY A DIVERSITY AGENCY. I KNOW THAT MANY, MANY OTHER MUSEUMS, FOR EXAMPLE, MODA IN LOS ANGELES, WHERE I HAVE ALSO WORKED, RECEIVED A THIRD-PARTY AUDIT FOR THEIR HR DEPARTMENT. WE HAVE RECEIVED MANY TRAININGS THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR LISTENING. I REALLY HOPE THAT WE SEE SOME ACTION.

**JANEL HUNT:** IN CLOSING I WOULD LIKE THANK THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL FOR OPENING THE DIALOGUE. EVERYONE THAT JOINED TODAY HAS SHOWN LOVE AND PASSION FOR PALM SPRINGS. WHETHER BE THE DESERT HIGHLAND ESTATES AREA OR OTHER AREAS. I WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE THE WRONGS THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED. IN ORDER FOR HEALING TO BEGIN. IF YOU TRULY WANT TO MAKE AMENDS, AND MAKE THE WRONGS THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED, HEALED, WE NEED TO START LOOKING AT THE STATUE THAT IS IN FRONT OF THE CITY HALL. DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH. START WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT FOR SECTION 14 IN 1968 THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH YOU GOING OUT THERE AND LOOKING AT THAT. AND LET'S GET THE LAWRENCE CROSSLEY NAME CHANGED ALL THE WAY THROUGH. NOT JUST PART OF IT BUT ALL OF IT. LET'S RECOGNIZE WHAT BLACK PEOPLE HAVE DONE HERE IN PALM SPRINGS. CHANGING THE NAME IS NOT ANYTHING THAT IS HURTING ANYBODY OR HINDERING ANYBODY BECAUSE OF AN ADDRESS CHANGE. BUT THE WRONGS NEED TO BE MADE RIGHT. AND REALLY TAKE A LOOK AT TRAINING FOR OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT AND LET'S REALLY TRULY BE GENUINE ABOUT OUR HEART AND WHETHER WE ARE DOING THE RIGHT THING FOR THE RIGHT PURPOSE. THANK YOU.

**ELIZABETH DOLORES:** I WANT TO GO AHEAD AND JUST COMMENT ON THE FACT THAT THE LAST TIME THAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT OUR BUDGET THERE WERE PHONE CALLS MADE FROM PEOPLE THAT WERE NOT RESIDENTS OF PALM SPRINGS. AND I WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE CITY COUNCIL, THE CITY, AND EVERYBODY WHO IS IN CHARGE OF TAKING IN COMMENTS AND PHONE CALLS TO TRY TO SOMEHOW DISTINGUISH THE ACTUAL RESIDENTS THAT HAVE ACTUAL RESIDENCY. OR ARE INVOLVED WITH THE CITY BECAUSE THEY ACTUALLY LIVE HERE OR THEY PAY TAXES HERE IN OUR CITY. JUST MAKE SURE THAT WE SOMEHOW FIGURE OUT A WAY THAT WE CAN HAVE ONLY CITY PEOPLE, LIKE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS SPEAK ON OUR CITY THAT WE PROVIDE FOR, THAT WE GIVE INTO, THAT WE LIVE IN. I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE IT. THANK YOU GUYS HAVE A WONDERFUL DAY.