



Los Altos Racial Equity <losaltosracialequity@gmail.com>

[test] Los Altos for Racial Equity Newsletter - Issue #6

2 messages

LARE via ActionNetwork.org <info+community-members-info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

Wed, Aug 13, 2025 at 11:38 PM

Reply-To: losaltosracialequity@gmail.com

To: losaltosracialequity@gmail.com

Hi Friend!



June 2022 Issue 6

Los Altos for Racial Equity (LARE) is a group of Los Altos residents who share a commitment to the work of social justice. The mission of **LARE** is to ensure equity for the Los Altos BIPOC community by influencing policy change, engaging the public in racial equity advocacy, and promoting diversity in community businesses, arts and events.

LARE has several Working Groups focused on the following areas: Accountable Governance, Policing & School Resource Officers (SROs), Housing, Education, Environment, Community Support, and Arts and Events. If one or more of these Working Groups resonate with you and you would like to participate in making change happen in our community, reach out to us and let us know how you can help! We are looking forward to hearing from you!

Issue Highlights

June is Pride month celebrating people of all genders and identities which can include lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual ([LGBTQIA+](#)). This month is about celebrating the entire spectrum of gender fluidity and sexual identities.

Pride month is credited as being started by bisexual activist Brenda Howard one year after the Stonewall Riots in New York City. In the 60's, solicitation of same sex relations was illegal in New York City. Gay bars and clubs were the safe spaces for LGBTQIA+ individuals to go and be in community with one another. The New York State Liquor Authority then penalized and shut down establishments serving suspected homosexuals alcohol labeling this type of gathering space as 'disorderly'.

On June 28, 1969, very early in the morning New York police raided the Stonewall Inn, a well know gay club located in Greenwich Village. This raid led to six days of riots prompted by the rough treatment by the police towards bar patrons and the neighbors living on Christopher Street and those in the nearby Christopher Park. These riots became known as the Stonewall Riots.

The Stonewall Riots are said to be the catalyst for the gay rights movement nationwide and around the world.

June is also [African American Music Appreciation Month](#). In 1979, President Jimmy Carter designated this month as Black Music Month. The Proclamation was not signed until 2000. In 2009, President Obama renamed the month to what it is called now, African American Music Appreciation Month.

This month honors the history and rich African traditions that became some of the musical genres we recognize today: rap, hip hop, jazz, rhythm and blues, barbershop, swing, and sacred (gospel) music. African American Music also includes hymns and songs from those who were enslaved. Songs were sung for inspiration, storytelling, and even guidance for the enslaved who were planning an escape for freedom. To read about how Harriet Tubman used songs to send messages [click here](#).

Local Issues



Los Altos Police Department

Want to influence real police policy? This is your chance to make a BIG difference!

Through the horrific events over the past two years, we've all seen the deadly effects that militarization of our police can have in our communities. California (CA) has recently passed AB 481, which requires all police departments to publish a Military Equipment Use policy which provides guidelines for the purchase, use, and reporting of any equipment that falls under the "military" designation. City Council then needs to approve this Use policy and needs to approve all military equipment purchases going forward. Here is a great [resource](#) that goes in-depth into Police Militarization in CA and the new reforms that have been passed.

Los Altos Police Department (LAPD) has published their [draft policy](#) for Military Equipment Use. LARE has looked it over and found that unfortunately, the authorized use cases for the military equipment that we have does not restrict any usage. This is due to the fact that LAPD uses standard policy templates provided by a company called [Lexipol](#). Lexipol policies aim to reduce legal liability for police departments rather than promote public safety. [\[1\]](#) Lexipol also actively campaigns against any kind of police reforms. [\[2\]](#). So public safety is not high on their priorities.

The wording in each and every one of our authorized use cases for military equipment has the phrase "include, but are not limited to", which provides the legal loophole to allow for any usage. For example, a less-lethal baton launcher could be used against a homeless person threatening to self-harm with a knife! This is not acceptable! We need explicit prohibited use cases for each piece of military equipment, which will ensure proper usage to minimize injuries and fatalities.

LAPD will present their draft policy to City Council on Tuesday, June 14. Please take a moment to send this template [email](#)* to City Council. Feel free to personalize as you wish. Correspondence submitted in hard copy/paper must be received by **2:00 PM** on the day of the meeting to ensure distribution prior to the meeting. Thanks for all that you do to increase public safety for everyone in Los Altos!!

Sincerely,
Renee Rashid

President, LARE

*You can also cut and paste the text below.

Send to: PublicComment@losaltosca.gov

Subject: Public Comment Agenda, Item 12, June 12, 2022

To Mayor, Vice-Mayor, and Councilmembers,

I do not support the approval of our draft Military Equipment Use policy as is. The policy as proposed does not safeguard the public's welfare, safety, civil rights, and civil liberties, so it should not be approved. The policy leaves too many loopholes for the usage of military equipment in any capacity. I want to see prohibited use cases for each piece of military equipment so that we can minimize injuries and fatalities in our community.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

Partner News - Justice Vanguard

Justice Vanguard sponsored the 2022 Blackalaureate for nine graduating students in the Mountain View Los Altos school district recently! Over \$2,400 was distributed among the students to help pay for school supplies and books as they embark on a new adventure in continuing their education.

The Blackalaureate Fund was started in 2021 and thanks to generous donations from the community Justice Vanguard was able to help the students with their upcoming expenses. If you would like to donate towards next year's fund, click [here](#).

Justice Vanguard will hold its 3rd annual Juneteenth celebration on Sunday, June 19th, from 12pm to 6pm on the field by the Community Center (97 Hillview Ave). Come out for education, food, vendors, music, speakers, performances, and much more! See you there!

KNOW JUSTICE KNOW PEACE

JUNE TEENTH FESTIVAL
HILLVIEW PARK
LOS ALTOS

Justice Vanguard

Art - Wine - Beer - Fundraisers - Music Vendors - Food -
Poetry - Guest Speakers Education - Murals - Games!

Join JV's Newsletter

97 Hillview Ave.
Los Altos, CA 94022
12 to 6p.m.

Get Juneteenth Updates

Did you know...?

Pete Dailey was the first candidate to announce his intent to run for City Council. Two council seats will be open for the November 8th general election. Pete's policy positions will focus on **Affordable Housing**, Climate Action and Adaptation, City Finances, Public Safety, and a Los Altos Downtown Vision Plan.

Affordable Housing: "We have a moral and legal obligation to increase the supply of housing in Los Altos. By law, failure to do so will result in the loss of local control over development. Morally, we owe it to our police, fire fighters, teachers and others to make room for them to live in the community they serve. I will work with all the stakeholders to affirmatively further affordable housing in Los Altos." For more about Pete, visit his [website](#).



Teamwork Makes the Dream Work



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Important Dates

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- Tuesday, 6/14, 7pm: City Council Meeting, [Agenda](#)
- Sunday, 6/19, 12pm-6pm: Justice Vanquard's 3rd Annual Juneteenth Celebration

8/13/25, 11:45 AM

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