



Tanya Maluf <thochem@gmail.com>

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## Introducing Los Altos For Racial Equity - Our First Newsletter

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Los Altos for Racial Equity via ActionNetwork.org <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

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Reply-To: losaltosracialequity@gmail.com

To: thochem@gmail.com



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## Our first Newsletter for the Community!

January 2022 Issue 1

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Introducing **Los Altos for Racial Equity (LARE)**. We are a group of Los Altos residents who share a commitment to the work of social justice. The mission of **LARE** is to advocate for all people, especially Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) who live, work, and play in Los Altos and surrounding communities, to be treated equitably in all aspects of their lives.

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## Issue Highlights

### Note from the Steering Committee President

I'm so excited to welcome you to our small but mighty organization with our inaugural newsletter. As you know, **LARE's** goal is to create a more vibrant, welcoming, and diverse Los Altos. This will require community improvement on multiple fronts, and so **LARE** has been busy working on increasing Police Transparency, including diverse histories in Education, and increasing and diversifying Housing. With our newsletters, we plan to keep you informed of our successes and failures and share opportunities where you can get involved to make a difference. Please let us know what else you would like to see.

Let's bend that arc together!

Sincerely,

Renee Rashid

President, **LARE**

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### Ethnic Studies 📖

AB 101 was signed by Governor Newsom on Friday, October 8, 2021. The Mountain View Los Altos School Board (MVLA) is now taking firmer steps towards an Ethnic Studies requirement for 9th grade students beginning with a pilot the 2022-23 school year and an established part of the curriculum the 2023-24 school year. On September 26th, 2021, the team of teachers putting the curriculum together presented to the MVLA Board. "Today we are not proposing the curriculum for the course," Associate Superintendent Teri Faught told the board. "We are telling you that we are committed and that we are on the journey." The Board is asking that the proposed curriculum is presented in May for discussion.

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### LARE Update on Police Transparency

During 2020, we successfully advocated the Police Task Force's recommendations to remove the SRO at Los Altos High, established the Office of the Independent Intake Official (IIO) reporting to the City Manager, and made multiple improvements to the Complaint Process.

**LARE** continued its work in 2021 to increase Police Transparency. New reforms, done in collaboration with Chief Galea, Captain Krauss, and Captain McCrossin, included



refinement of the Police and IIO webpages to improve navigation and clarify options for Complainants; the expansion of the IIO's role to maintain the complainant's confidentiality from the Police, if the complainant so chooses; and improvement of several tools within the system. Next, we will analyze the PD's Racial Identity Profiling Act (RIPA) Data.

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### City begins outreach for new housing plan

Los Altos is creating a new plan to build housing across the income spectrum, and this plan, called a housing element, is a big deal: it will chart the next decade of Los Altos's growth as a city. Currently, Los Altos housing is concentrated toward the extreme high end, accessible only to the highest income earners. At **LARE**, we want the city to put in place a progressive housing element that will make Los Altos a more inclusive and diverse town.

The city's first task is to do community outreach to learn more about our community's housing needs. As part of this outreach, the consultant, Lisa Wise Consulting, and the city have a legal responsibility to strive to "achieve public participation of all economic segments of the community." You may sometimes hear this legal responsibility referred to as part of the duty to *affirmatively further fair housing*. It's important that Los Altos adhere to this policy and reach out to *everyone* in our community, including the service

workers and teachers and caretakers and everyone else who deserves to live in the community they serve.

The challenge of adding affordable housing which includes low income opportunities will be difficult, but we do believe it is possible to reach the goals set before us if we work together with open and creative minds.

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### Partner Highlight



#### **Justice Vanguard:** Recent History and Outlook for the Future

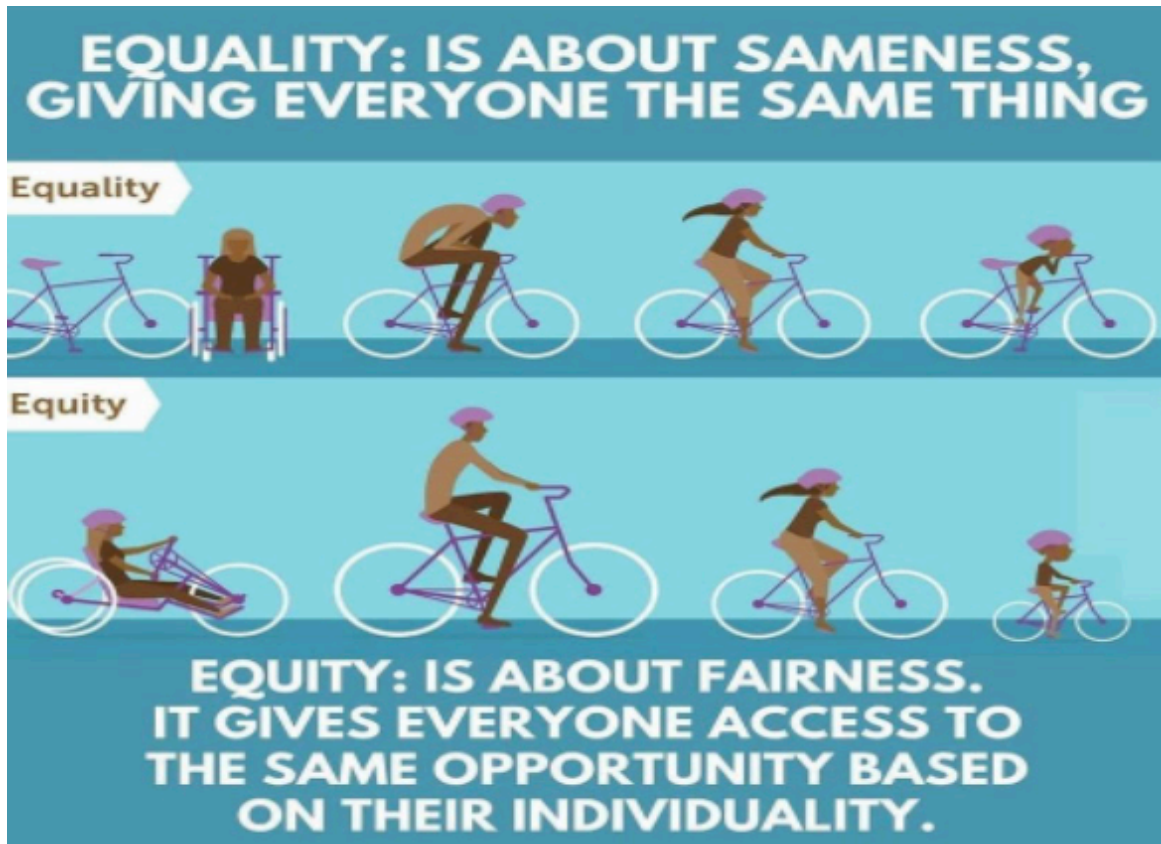
In December 2021 Kenan Moos was a featured speaker at two local schools during their Community Days where he discussed the importance of mental health and social support for students on campuses. Also in December 2021, Kiyoshi Taylor was honored by The Law Foundation of Silicon Valley as an instrumental part of the campaign to remove School Resource Officers (SRO), armed police, from the San Jose Unified School District. They successfully removed the SRO program from the largest high school district in Santa Clara.

Justice Vanguard was instrumental in campaigning for the implementation of a pilot high school Ethnic Studies Program for MVLA, which will begin in Fall 2022. The organization also partnered with Nueva High School and collected more than 300 backpacks filled with school supplies to distribute to students in need around the Bay Area and Ohio. Justice Vanguard also began their internship program and have been interviewing high schoolers from across the Bay. In order to grow and expand over the next year and beyond, Justice Vanguard has started a PayPal and gofundme “invest in our future” plan which can be found on their [website](#).

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### What Does It Mean, Exactly?

What does it mean, exactly, to be ‘treated equitably’? Isn’t being treated equal enough? Glad you asked! Equal/Equality implies sameness...giving everyone the same thing whether or not it suits their needs.. Equity/Equitably is about fairness. It is about giving everyone access to the same opportunity based on their individuality.



### Upcoming Dates 📅

- Tuesday, January 11, 7pm: [Los Altos City Council Meeting](#)
- Wednesday, January 12, 12pm: [Brown Bag Lunch with MVLA](#)- Topic: Ethnic Studies
- Thursday, January 13, 6:30pm - 8:30pm: [Community Workshop #1-Los Altos Housing Element Update](#)
- Tuesday, 1/25, 5pm [Mountain View City Council Meeting](#) re: SRO on MV campus

### How can you help?

Read more about **LARE** on our [website](#) and follow us on social media, @losaltosforracialequity. In **LARE** have Working Groups focusing 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 resonates 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!



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