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Los Altos for Racial Equity Newsletter - Issue #10

1 message

LARE via ActionNetwork.org <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

Tue, Oct 11, 2022 at 2:05 PM

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Hi Tanya!



October 2022 Issue 10

Los Altos for Racial Equity's (LARE) mission 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. We are a group of Los Altos residents who share a commitment to the work of social justice.

LARE has several Working Groups focused on the following areas: Policing & School Resource Officers (SROs), Racial Identity and Profiling Act (RIPA) data analysis, Membership, Local Government. 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

Meet LARE member, Jeanine Valadez!

Jeanine has lived in Los Altos since 1989. Jeanine is married and has a son who went through LASD schools (Almond and Egan) and went to Los Altos High School (LAHS). He graduated from UCSD with highest honors in Literature and four Varsity soccer letters. Jeanine's son is now a teacher at LAHS teaching math as well as coaching the LAHS soccer team.

Jeanine graduated from Stanford with an Electrical Engineering degree and started her career working at Advanced Micro Devices (AMD). Jeanine moved up the management chain quickly and while at AMD she built a business case for a chip conforming to the new IEEE 802.11 standard for wireless data networks (WiFi). Her team helped write 802.11 and they delivered the industry's first Media Access Controller on a chip for the new standard. Jeanine left AMD to join a gigabit ethernet startup and, when the company was eventually sold, she decided to retire and focus on coaching mostly boys 3-18 in baseball, basketball, volleyball, softball, and, ultimately, as a nationally licensed professional in soccer. She coached three travel boys soccer teams (two of which were state champions and regional competitors!). Jeanine did this for 10 years and then became more focused on volunteering in her community. Jeanine is currently a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, is a Los Altos Rotarian, and is a member of LARE.

Jeanine joined LARE shortly after its formation in 2020. Jeanine was appointed to be on the City Council's Police Task Force after calling in to a Town Hall meeting following the murder of George Floyd. Jeanine met two LARE steering committee members also on the task force and joined LARE shortly thereafter. LARE seemed like the right place to address how she had been treated in Los Altos as a Mexican-American. Jeanine had been stopped 10 times by the police who didn't ever ask for her driver's license and registration, but did ask, "Is this your

car Ma'am?" or "What is your business here?" or "Do you live here?", often while she had her then young son in the car with her. One evening after a formal event, the police forced Jeanine into the parking lot at Almond Elementary with the spotlight on her car and blocked her in. It wasn't until her wife made herself known to also be in the car that the police officer sped quickly away.

It is no surprise that Jeanine's areas of focus in LARE are policing and keeping School Resource Officers (SRO) off of high school campuses. Also important to Jeanine are issues of equity related to housing, climate, and education (educating our youth by correcting histories of the peoples in Los Altos through a cultural and artistic lens).

Jeanine envisions LARE building and nourishing a reputation for addressing equity issues in Los Altos and surrounding communities using factual, research-based, and statistical methods with assessments and recommendations reflecting progressive and creative thinking based on data. She wants LARE's work to embolden the elected and appointed officials in our city to not do just the bare minimum, to plan for the future of Los Altos, to anticipate how demographics will change, and to lead us in addressing the existential threats of our time.

In Jeanine's spare time she likes to read, watch TV and movies, tend to the garden and greenhouse, cuddle her three dogs, and stay on top of the latest sneaker drops (Jeanine is a proud sneakerhead).

Currently Jeanine is reading Biased by Dr. Jennifer Eberhardt, re-reading King Lear by William Shakespeare, and continuing the comic book series Saga by Brian K Vaughan.

Hispanic and Latine Heritage Month: September 15 - October 15

Hispanic Heritage Month began as a one week celebration in 1968 when first introduced by Congressman George E. Brown (D-CA) in June of 1968. Brown's district was heavily populated by Latine and Hispanic residents and he wanted their important contributions to the community to be recognized. With the Civil Rights Movement in full swing, President Lyndon Johnson officially recognized the one week commemoration and President Ronald Regan established a month long celebration on August 17, 1988. The month is now recognized more inclusively as Hispanic and Latine Heritage Month.

The unusual mid-month start has sound reasoning. September 15th is the independence anniversary for Latin American countries El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Honduras. From here onwards, the independence days of Mexico and Chile fall on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Dia de la Raza also falls within this month, on October 12.

You may be wondering about the terms you often hear and maybe even use like Hispanic and Latino. These terms are often used incorrectly. For example, 'Hispanic' is a linguistical category and refers to people from Spain or Spanish-speaking countries. 'Latino/a/e/x' is an ethnic and cultural category and is used to describe descendents from Latin America, including Mexico, Dominican Republic, Cuba, and Central and South America.

'Latinx' was created as a gender-neutral term, as was 'Latine', to describe people that originate from Latin America. It was popularized by activists and made mainstream though it is not grammatically correct. 'Latinx' is waning in popularity and being replaced by 'Latine'.

As in any situation when you are unsure, the best thing is to ask the person who you are with what he/she/they prefer. Preferences and backgrounds will vary, and it is best not to

assume.

Community News

Racial Identity Profiling Act (RIPA)

Understanding the RIPA data

In last month's newsletter we discussed the purpose of the California Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA) and shared some initial results. This month we will breakdown the data into three main points of interest: Reasons for Stop, Actions Taken, and Result of Stop. The hope is to give you a better understanding of the importance of the RIPA data. In the following months we will focus on each separately.

The RIPA Board put in precise detail what pieces of data must be included with each stop. Most police departments use an app on a phone or pad to record the data. A few of the fields are 'open text' fields, but the majority are drop down menus of choices which enhances the integrity of the data.

The RIPA Board calls for each department to do an audit of their RIPA data. This includes using BodyCam footage to confirm that the assessment corroborates what is seen in the video. Each police department is then required to submit the data to the California Department of Justice. It is not required that the data is shared publicly, but Los Altos has committed to public releases of their data on a regular basis.

It is important to remember the information entered as it was perceived by the officer and this is where bias comes in. Bias is defined as treating people differently based on perception. We need to remember that everyone has biases when interpreting the results. It helps frame the questions that can sensibly be asked about the data. This is also true for reporting when and where the stop was made. There is likely a timestamp within the app, but because an actual address cannot legally be used, it will be up to the police officer to describe the location of the stop. This information is manually entered and due to spelling errors, hasty entries and/or street name ambiguities, this data is difficult to clean up for analysis.

Details about the stop must also be entered and are broken down into the aforementioned three categories: Reason for Stop, Action(s) taken, and Result of Stop, i.e. what initiated the stop, what happened during the encounter, and how the situation was resolved. Looking at the connections between the fields for each stop, we can learn about how the police can operate differently for different racial groups and different gender identities.

Next month we will look more closely at the what is considered when reporting "Reason for Stop".

Contribution by LARE member, Brian Jones

Midterm Elections

Los Altos City Council**Join a virtual event to meet Pete Dailey!**

On Tuesday, October 18th, at 7pm, supporters of Pete Dailey's campaign will be hosting a Zoom event for those who have not yet heard from Pete or for those who have and want to learn more about Pete and his campaign platform. To join on 10/18, [click here](#). See you there!

For more information about Pete and his platform, how to volunteer for Pete's campaign, and how to donate, visit his [website](#) and follow Pete on [Facebook](#). Pete's name will be the first you see on the ballot. Remember we each have two votes to fill two seats. Pete is running against Anita Enander.

At LARE we support the state mandate to provide more affordable housing in Los Altos outlined in the [draft Housing Element](#). We are concerned about the environment and support the Climate Action and Adaptation [plan](#) adopted by City Council in March 2022. We showed up at Mountain View Los Altos school board meetings showing our support for the Ethnic

Studies curriculum in the our high schools (Ethnic Studies is now mandated by the State). We want equity in education. We want all students to feel safe and secure while they are at school. These issues align with two candidates running for City Council. Incumbent **Neysa Fligor** and **Pete Dailey** support these issues as well. They appreciate the wonderful things about Los Altos, are forward thinking and realistic about the growth of Los Altos, and value inclusivity in our city. **Neysa** and **Pete** confirm their stated positions by their actions. They both rely on data and science when researching and discussing a topic. They are transparent. They are honest. **Neysa Fligor** and **Pete Dailey** are who our city needs to represent our families and our community. Vote **Neysa** and **Pete**!

On Friday, October 7th, the Los Altos Community Coalition (LACC) offered: Reach Codes – a Better Understanding. With Don Weiden, Environmental Commissioner and Reach Code Subcommittee Member, City of Los Altos, and John Lerch, Owner/Operator of Lerch Construction. You can view the recording [here](#).

On Friday, October 14th, at 8:30 a.m., join LACC for: Public Safety in Los Altos with Police Chief Angela Averiett. Join the Zoom meeting [here](#). Meeting ID: 660 6083 2407, One tap mobile + 16699009128,,86060832407# US (San Jose)

LARE is a supporter and member of LACC.

COVID-19 Omicron specific booster now available

The new Omicron-specific COVID-19 booster is available for eligible individuals ages 12 and older. Appointments can be made through Santa Clara County's website. Learn more [here](#).



Important Dates

- Tuesday, 9/20, 7pm: City Council Meeting [Recording](#)
- Tuesday, 10/11, 7pm: City Council Meeting [Agenda](#)
- Thursday, 10/13, 4pm - 8pm: last Farmer's Market of the season
- Friday, 10/14, 8:30am: LACC: Public Safety in Los Altos with Police Chief Angela Averiett, [Zoom](#)
- Wednesday, 10/18, 5pm In Person Meet and Greet with Pete Dailey [RSVP](#)
- Wednesday, 10/18, 7pm: [Zoom](#) meeting with candidate Pete Dailey
- Friday, 10/21, 6pm - 9pm: Los Altos Village Association (LAVA) [Wine Stroll](#)
- Monday, 10/31, 12pm - 4pm: A Bootiful Downtown Halloween

Ongoing Events

- Permanent COVID-19 testing Booth, M-F, 7:30am - 3:30pm at the Los Altos Community Center. [Signups](#)



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