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Los Altos for Racial Equity Newsletter - Issue #17

1 message

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

Tue, May 9, 2023 at 11:01 AM

Reply-To: losaltosracialequity@gmail.com

To: thochem@gmail.com

Hi Tanya!



May 2023 Issue 17

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

Two Calls to Action

1. Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR)

Speak out against the ALPR pilot program: LARE opposes the pilot ALPR program presented by Chief Averiette on behalf of the Los Altos Police Department (LAPD) for the following reasons:

1. The stated goal of 10 percentage point increase in solvability from the initial proposal has been removed and replaced with a vague goal of increasing arrests in three specific categories, Burglaries, Grand Theft, and Stolen Vehicles, without any specificity of what amount of increase would prove success. It is also not stated if the anticipated increase is necessary in all three categories or if it would suffice if an increase was seen in just one or two categories.

2. At the February 28th City Council meeting, council members requested for staff to provide an assessment of Return on Investment (ROI). This was not addressed in the staff report.

3. City Council and all constituents in attendance were told that the Vallejo Police Department's (PD) ALPR policy was vetted by the ACLU and the LAPD policy was based on Vallejo's. Staff did not find any corroborating evidence that the ACLU vetted Vallejo's ALPR policy. Vallejo PD simply viewed the ACLU website before writing its policy.

4. Staff was unable to find data showing long term outcomes of ALPRs in area PDs, "...however, there are not longitudinal studies that staff is aware of showing the long-term outcomes or the experiences of multiple agencies." Staff was unable to find any evidence that ALPRs actually positively impact the number of arrests in a community.

5. The criteria appears to be designed to allow the department to claim success no matter what the outcome. Best said by LARE's president, Renee Rashid, "We want Los Altos to BE a safe community, rather than just FEEL like a safe community so lets use our limited budget money wisely and invest in ways that actually do that."

You may select one or a few of the above talking points for your email of opposition to the ALPR Pilot Program to [City Council](#) and cc: [Public Record](#) today **before 2pm**.

2. Ethnic Studies curriculum in Mountain View Los Altos High School District (MVLA)

Email the [MVLA Board of Trustees](#) showing your support for the Ethnic Studies program as it stands, developed by MVLA teachers and educators. The curriculum will now be scrutinized line by line because an outspoken group has claimed religious discrimination due to a contract with Acosta Educational Services (AES) who was available for consultation with the District and the Ethnic Studies team during the creation of the curriculum. The Board ceased relations with the agency, but those who claim discrimination are not satisfied and continue to push for a full review of the curriculum. This push is a political attempt to control and limit information. We strongly oppose those who censor information, stifle discussion, and cherry-pick history.

Most importantly, we ardently support our teachers, who put in tireless hours to leverage their professional expertise and develop an accurate and age-appropriate Ethnic Studies curriculum. Our children deserve nothing less.

Please email your comments to the Board **by May 16th** and attend the next meeting live ([click here](#) for dates and agendas) located at the MVLA District Office Board Room, [1299 Bryant Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94040](#).

Community News



JUNETEENTH FESTIVAL
HILLVIEW PARK
LOS ALTOS

KNOW JUSTICE KNOW PEACE

Art Music Dance Vendors Food Games & More...

12 to 5p.m. June 17th
97 Hillview Ave.
Los Altos, CA 94022

Justice Vanguard

Community Sponsors :

T TITLE BOXING CLUB
MOUNTAIN VIEW

Bay Area Lighting and Sound

barre3
LOS ALTOS

City of Los Altos - California
INCORPORATED DECEMBER 1997

Justice Vanguard will be holding their 4th Annual Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday, June 17th at 97 Hillview Ave from 12pm - 5pm! Come out for an amazing day with performers, music, food, vendors, and more! [Click here](#) for your free tickets.

barre3 Los Altos will have donation based classes for their three Saturday classes on June 3rd, with all benefits going to Justice Vanguard and their Juneteenth celebration! Sign up for a class [here](#)!

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Month

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Month. May was chosen as the recognized month for two significant reasons. First, it is the first known arrival month of Japanese immigrants in 1843. Second, in 1869 the building of the TransContinental Railroad was completed by Chinese immigrants. Despite the contributions Japanese and Chinese immigrants made to benefit the United States, the Chinese and the Japanese people endured severe working conditions, discrimination, racism, and ultimately the internment in one of 75 identified interment camps of approximately 125,284 people of Japanese descent during World War II from February 19, 1942 - March 20, 1946.

The Asian-American population continues to experience a surge in discrimination, violence, and death due to the rhetoric spewed by the administration at the beginning of the COVID Pandemic. The term 'Asian Flu' unleashed indeterminate violence against Asian Americans.

There is vast diversity within the Asian American community and the umbrella of 'Asian American' is not a monolith. The Census Bureau defines a person of the Asian race as "having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam (taken from this [article](#)).

The same is true for Pacific Islanders. For example Pacific Islanders include a diverse range of ethnic groups native to the Pacific Islands region. Major groups are Polynesians (including Hawaiians, Samoans, Tongans), Melanesians (Fijians, Papua New Guineans, Solomon Islanders), and Micronesians (Chamorros, Palauans, Marshallese). These groups share common cultural traits and ancestry, but also have distinct identities (taken from this [article](#)).

Do one thing today to acknowledge the significance of the Asian American and Pacific Islander people in our community...learn how to pronounce their names! If you think it's 'too difficult' ask for guidance. Write it down phonetically. Acknowledge you are having trouble and keep trying. Our names are our first given identity!

May is Mental Health Awareness Month - 988 is the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

Ask for the **Trust Mobile Team** to assist you or someone else experiencing a mental health crisis instead of calling the police.

Through education and conversation about future trends, policy proposals, and best practices, the **Los Altos Community Coalition (LACC)** promotes good city planning, good government, and civil discourse in our community. Every other Friday morning at 8:30am LACC features an interview with a community leader or a representative from a local organization. You can view these events on their [You Tube](#) channel.

Important Dates

- May 1 - May 31: AAPI Heritage Month, Jewish Heritage Month, Mental Health Awareness Month
 - Tuesday, 5/9, 7pm: City Council Meeting, [Agenda](#)
 - Tuesday, 5/16, 4:30pm: Youth Commission interviews
 - Thursday, 5/18, 5:30pm - 7pm: "Hidden Communities: Chinese and Latino Agricultural Workers in the Bay Area", Los Altos History Museum, \$10/person (free for members) buy your ticket [here](#)
 - Thursday, 5/25, 6:45pm, [Justice Vanguard](#) Free Movie Night, 'Soul', Los Altos Community Center
 - Saturday, 6/3, 7:45am, 9am, & 10:15am: Donation Based Classes with [barre3 Los Altos](#) to support Justice Vanguard and their 4th Annual Juneteenth Celebration
 - Saturday, 6/17, 12pm-5pm: Justice Vanguard's [4th Annual Juneteenth Celebration](#), Hillview Field
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Ongoing Meetings

- Every Other Friday, 8:30am: LACC Interview on [YouTube](#)
- Every Third Thursday of the month, 5:30pm - 7pm: Conversations and Reflections about Local History offered by the Los Altos History Museum

How Can You Help?

Read more about LARE on our [website](#) and follow us on social media (Instagram, Facebook), [@losaltosforracialequity](#).



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