

ATTACHMENT B

August 24, 2016

An Open Letter to the Leaders in our Community:

Following the horrific acts of violence that have recently plagued our country, the Alameda Social Service Human Relations Board (SSHRB) received written concerns from Alameda citizens regarding the possible impact of these events on the Alameda community. Requests were made to SSHRB that it consider creating a community forum for open dialogue regarding these issues and the current state of race relations in Alameda.

At my request, this matter was placed on the regular agenda of the SSHRB meeting held on July 27, 2016 for the Board to discuss. During the meeting, SSHRB members discussed how its historic role in fostering mutual understanding, respect, equality, and goodwill among community groups might serve the Alameda community at this time of nationwide unrest.

As a result of these discussions, the Board committed to reach out to all community groups, organizations serving Alameda youth, City departments, and the community-at-large, to share concerns raised by Alameda citizens at this time, and to offer support and facilitation to create a community forum to discuss these matters.

As leaders of organizations in our community that may be affected by recent acts of violence in our state and in our nation, you may share the concerns of other Alamedans about the impact of these events on Alameda residents, particularly our children and young adults, as well as our dedicated law enforcement family.

If beginning an open community dialogue about these issues is something you and/or your organization believe may be in the best interest of our community, we would like to hear from you. SSHRB will support any effort that will foster mutual understanding between different community groups, and help facilitate those efforts, to ensure that Alameda remains a community that supports civility, tolerance, and goodwill.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Please respond to Jim Franz, staff to SSHRB jfranz@alamedaca.gov

Sincerely,

Jennifer Williams, Vice-President, City of Alameda Social Service Human Relations Board