

Public Comment *(received via email)*

Agenda Date: 5/13/2021

From: NHB-Web [mail to :REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 6:54 PM

To: JONES Diana L (CAO) <Diana.JONES@lanecountyor.gov>

Subject: Public Comment for LC Budget Committee Mtg 05/20/2021

[EXTERNAL △]

This email replaces the one I submitted earlier on May 9.

Dear Lane County Budget Committee Members--It has come to my attention that leadership in the Lane County District Attorney's office is skeptical about whether or not there is systemic racism in Lane County's criminal justice system. I and many others in Lane County see evidence that systemic racism does exist here. I recently learned that a proposal has been submitted to the Lane County Board of Commissioners to require the District Attorney's office to collect and make public race and ethnicity data for members of the public involved in police encounters, citations, arrests, cases filed and convictions. I strongly urge the Lane County Budget Committee to do the right thing, and recommend approval of funding to support this proposal. For a community issue as important as this, it is crucial that we not rely on the opinions of individual leaders—let's collect data on policing to document what is happening with accuracy and completeness. Even though the component of Lane County's population that is non-white is small, the impacts to that portion of the population are not small. Let's follow the lead of other effective and clear-sighted local and county governments in Oregon and around the country, that are making changes to ensure that we stop race-based police actions towards people of color. Recommending approval of funding for this data collection is squarely in line with the Lane County Board's recent resolution to acknowledge racism as a public health crisis.

Please take immediate action to recommend funding to support the District Attorney's office to collect and make publicly available data on race and ethnicity for members of the public involved in police encounters, citations, arrests, cases filed and convictions. It is the right thing to do.

Thank you,

Neil Bjorklund
Eugene, Oregon