

Martha Alvarez

From: DEBORAH VENTURA <debventura@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 5:27 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support of Bruce's Beach Task Force

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Dear Manhattan Beach City Council,

I am a resident of Manhattan Beach and would like to voice my support for the Bruce's Beach Task Force. I believe that a strong and sincere apology for Manhattan Beach's racist past must be made and that continuing the Task Force is important.

Thank you!

Deborah Ventura
341 7th Street
Manhattan Beach

Martha Alvarez

From: Alexandria Latragna
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 4:06 PM
To: Anthony Lee; Martha Alvarez; Liza Tamura
Cc: Allison Hales; Isla Garrraway; Lindsey Fox; Taylor Gamble; Amanda Park; Stephanie Caridad; Kristin L. Drew; Tyler St Bernard; Lana Rizika; Kristi Ramirez-Knowles; Michael Jenkins; Jarett Margolis; Eyana Carballo; Laura Kainsinger; Hildy Stern; Steve Napolitano; Richard Montgomery; Suzanne Hadley; Joe Franklin
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Message from Anthony Bruce for Tonight's Meeting

Thank you. I copying our City clerk so it can be included in the public comments. Please don't reply all to this email.

On Mar 16, 2021, at 4:03 PM, Anthony A. Lee <member1700@gmail.com> wrote:

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I just received this e-mail from Anthony Bruce,, who is the great-great grandson of Charles and Willa Bruce. He asks that I forward it on to the Task Force and to the City Council.

Anthony Lee



ALEXANDRIA LATRAGNA

MANAGEMENT ANALYST

(310) 802-5063
alatragna@citymb.info

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Anthony Bruce
Date: Tue, Mar 16, 2021 at 2:37 PM
Subject: Re: Final Report of the Bruce's Beach Task Force
To: Anthony A. Lee <member1700@gmail.com>

Hello Anthony would you let everyone at tonight's Meeting

Hear this; it's my Comment.
Please and Thank You

I will try to join the Meeting as well.

You Speak, We Listen

Bruce's Beach Task Force and Manhattan City Beach Council need to ask themselves some very important questions.

That are everyone's minds right now across the United States and abroad.

How will they tackle this issue of Racial Inequality?

How will they react in response to the racial and ethical climate that is being addressed now today?

How do they measure the strength of the cultural diversity within the City Of Manhattan Beach?

*We need to learn from the past on how to respond properly to the current Situation.
There are things that must be done CORRECTLY and in the RIGHT way.*

Whenever something like this occurs we all need to really take a step back for a moment and reflect on it.

Place yourself in that other persons shoes so to speak before passing judgment and dismissing it as unimportant.

Without a strong ethical and racial diversity, unity, and Equality in this country there could be Retaliation and backlash from the targeted victims.

Like we all witnessed just last year. In response to the unjust Murder of George Floyd.

More research must be done to uncover the truth and find out more about culture and racial divides that plague Manhattan City and the lives that have been irreversibly damaged because of the unjust actions that they did while working with and allowing Hate factions such as the KKK to hold away over their decisions at that time.

*The Bruces;
My Family have been tragically affected by the situation that we must all now face.*

We were targeted and persecuted just because of our skin color.

I know we would all probably like to kind of just forget our Racist past and act like it never happened or that it ever existed.

So we must bravely engage this in a committed way. It's time to leave all of the wickedness and hate behind.

Our mission now is to tackle this issue of ethical and racial misbehavior that was committed by Manhattan City Council.

An unjust crime has taken place because of their actions.

Those who commit such crimes must be held accountable by law even if it is the lawmakers themselves who commit such crimes.

Some are saying that the restitution or repatriations can not be paid.

Well what can we do about that?

*That money is what they stole from us and our community.
That's 75 Million dollars for a Crime they committed against People of a Different Race.*

If they had no intention of paying that; then they should not have taken it from us the way they did.

Have they begun to contemplate an offer which they can pay?

Why do they feel or think that they do not have to pay for their crimes?

So long as we both compromise on a settlement.

I believe a solution can be reached hopefully outside of court.

The Manhattan City Beach Council needs to address this themselves with me.

That way we won't have to involve too many other people.

Do the right thing.

I want to try and reach an understanding.

To come to a Fair Agreement.

The importance of doing the right thing is that we don't need to continue fighting about this issue in the Public Eye.

*Now is the time resolve this issue regarding
JUSTICE FOR MY FAMILY.*

This year we can both find Clousure on this Horrible Problem from our past.

Anthony Bruce

Anthony Bruce

On Sat, Mar 13, 2021, 2:18 PM Anthony A. Lee <member1700@gmail.com> wrote:

Thanks so much, Anthony, for your messages of love and peace and reconciliation. That has always been the dream of the black community, of course. But the struggle has been very long indeed. There has been a lot of suffering along the way, including the suffering in your own family. Well, and mine.

So we will do the best we can. The backlash has already begun. It is quite formidable. We should not be surprised.

Much love,
Anthony

On Fri, Mar 12, 2021 at 11:37 PM Anthony Bruce <sakaragaoka3@gmail.com> wrote:

You know when I was growing up I learned that there is way to combat Racism and Prejudice

It's Justice

Anthony, May I share a Quote with you?

Create **all** the **happiness** you are able to create: remove all the **miser**y you are able to remove... and for every grain of enjoyment you sow in the bosom of another, you shall find a harvest in your own bosom." -- Jeremy Bentham

Others have faced Racism in the past the only difference now is that we can learn from their mistakes and failures to become better as One Nation under God; Indivisible with Liberty and Justice for All.

Have a Blessed Day.

Anthony Bruce

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Anthony Bruce** <sakaragaoka3@gmail.com>

Date: Sat, Mar 13, 2021, 2:17 AM

Subject: Re: Final Report of the Bruce's Beach Task Force

To: Anthony A. Lee <member1700@gmail.com>

Anthony Bruce

On Fri, Mar 12, 2021, 11:36 PM Anthony A. Lee <member1700@gmail.com> wrote:

Well, my brother, those are our proposals. We have no idea if the City Council will accept them. There has already been a backlash. Someone took out two full page ads in the local paper denouncing our Task Force and rejecting all of our proposals. It was a very ugly attack that tried to revise the history of Bruce's Beach to say that it was not motivated by racism. So, it is going to be a struggle.

Anthony

On Fri, Mar 12, 2021 at 6:36 PM Anthony Bruce <sakaragaoka3@gmail.com> wrote:

This is a great News.

Yes it most certainly will.

By the way thank you for talking with me the other day I enjoyed it very much.

Anthony Bruce

On Thu, Mar 11, 2021, 7:27 PM Anthony A. Lee <member1700@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Brother Anthony:

I hope you are doing well. I saw the article about Bruce's Beach in the New York Times. It seems that this is a national issue that is heating up. There was also an article in the Guardian, in the UK. But I suppose you already know this.

I just got the final draft of the proposals that the Bruce's Beach Task Force will present to the City Council in Manhattan Beach. It is attached. The Council will take it up at their meeting this coming Tuesday, March 16. You can weigh in with a public comment before the meeting, if you want.

So it seems that we are inching closer to justice for your family. I hope that the outcome will benefit the black community as a whole and will strengthen the entire community of Manhattan Beach.

Warm regards,
Anthony

Martha Alvarez

From: peter topblueusa.com <peter@topblueusa.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 5:18 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] end the Task Force at tonight meeting

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End the Task Force at the 3/16 meeting

No Permanent Oversight Committee

Only consider a Factual History Report about 1920s Bruce Family, plaque & art piece

Reject the Apology Letter and All other recommendations

Peter Balov

Martha Alvarez

From: The U Family <theugroup@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 5:18 PM
To: List - City Council
Cc: Jill Lamkin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach

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My name is John Uriostegui. I am a resident at 419 Altura Way, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266. I work at the Bank of America office in Manhattan Beach and Merrill Lynch office in El Segundo.

Our family tries to shop and or eat in Manhattan Beach every day we are here. You all know our small local businesses can not sustain this shut as well as the big chain stores. I can believe that 2 council members had a knee jerk reaction and created all of this. Why can I eat in Hermosa, Redondo, and El Segundo parklets and I can't in MB. I can not believe that educated people can tell me it's ok to go into Costco, Home Depot, Vons and Target but I can't order a meal and eat inside with a distance or god forbid outside "where you are supposed to be". If you instituted a rule like you have to wear N95 masks or something that medically or scientifically has been proven, maybe people wouldn't be as happy but there was some kind of thought or logic. Trilogy spa is selling immunity kits that have worked on over 100 people that I know of. All the people that took the immunity kit and glutathione spray and used it right away the second they started to feel something and didn't wait till they felt horrible, we're all better in days.

If people don't feel safe or don't want to leave their house don't we have plenty of services that can accommodate them. The majority of the people in the city are American and have rights, please let us as individuals make the choice of whether to shop or eat.

--

JU
310-291-3737

Martha Alvarez

From: Rick Lesser <lizardbrane@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 5:17 PM
To: List - City Council; Rick Lesser
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dear Council members: Please reject any call for an apology letter, and disband the BB task force tonight- Rick Lesser- MB resident for 74 years

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Martha Alvarez

From: Colleen Soulis <csoulpac@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 5:09 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force Approval

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hello amazing City Council Members:

I am writing to thank you for the work that has been done by the Bruce's Beach Task Force. It is a thoughtful and well researched document that seeks to right the wrongs of those who came before us as Manhattan Beach residents and aims to create a partial solution to righting those wrongs through an apology and concrete anti-racist action steps for the city and its residents. I have heard complaints from Manhattan Beach citizens that apologizing sets up a legal standing for the Bruce Family in the future. I'm not a lawyer, but it does seem that whether the city apologizes or not, the Bruce's may have a legal standing to compensation - but that is another discussion.

Apologizing in a strong and meaningful way and taking responsibility for the city's historical actions is a very important step in welcoming those of different races and ethnic groups to our city and beach. Being recognized in LA as a welcoming city that is coming to terms with its racist past - and not so distant past - lifts our city up, both morally and economically. We should apologize because it is the right thing to do, but we should also realize that being stuck in the past with an ugly, racist societal construct will ultimately be very detrimental for our city.

I believe the work that the task force is doing is vitally important in moving Manhattan Beach forward to becoming a more welcoming and accepting city that we all would be proud to call home. Further, it is not the task force that is the cause of the divisiveness in the city that we have recently seen written about, but those residents who don't really want to accept that wrongs have been committed in our community, and the fact that we have not truly acknowledged our racist history and the privilege that allowed white families to pass down land and real estate to their children, while those same privileges were not extended people of color. We need to engage with the Black community to learn how this has affected those harmed and increase our understanding of how we can work together to make things right.

The plan that the Bruce's Beach Task Force and the City Council has laid out is one step in this direction, and I urge you to continue your work and engagement.

Best regards,

Colleen Soulis (Manhattan Beach)

Colleen Soulis Pachler
csoulpac@me.com
323.240.9229

Martha Alvarez

From: Katja Newman <katja@lacienegavineyard.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 5:04 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] URGENT NEED FOR AN APOLOGY

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Dear MB Council Members,

I applaud your efforts to address the history of racism in our community, the underlying effects of which have deterred and discriminated against people of color. The Beach Reporter ad opposing the Bruce's Beach Task Force was incredibly disappointing and demonstrates how discrimination and denial persist to this day. I urge you to continue with efforts for a strongly worded apology, and continue the task force to collaborate with the county and work toward reparations. The best way to address divisiveness in our town is to address the problems of the past, demonstrate accountability, and promote healing going forward. To ignore this and declare that racism doesn't exist is naïve and hurtful. Please let me know if there is any way I can help support your further efforts.

Thank you,

-Katja.

KATJA NEWMAN, MANAGING PARTNER

LA CIENEGA VINEYARD, LLC

WWW.LACIENEGAVINEYARD.COM



Martha Alvarez

From: Mark Tuccinardi <marktuccinardi@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 5:04 PM
To: List - City Council; Suzanne Hadley; Joe Franklin; Richard Montgomery; Steve Napolitano; Hildy Stern; Bruce Moe; Quinn Barrow; Derrick Abell; Jacqueline Harris
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Council must immediately put a stop to fake accusations MB is racist!!!

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Dear City Council,

You...City Council members are responsible for allowing and fueling of lies of racism fostering false accusations that, our City of MB is racist. It could not be further from the truth...most of you know it!

We are not responsible (none of us), for what anyone did a hundred years ago! Anymore than you (we), are responsible for what our neighbor did yesterday. Better yet, what council members Stern and Napolitano have done by giving disingenuous hate groups a platform to perpetuate their false narratives and racist rhetoric, opening the flood gates downstream.

What you focus on grows and the more you perpetuate a lie the more it becomes the truth!! People are sheeple, look at us idiots, letting government control us (includes you), instill fear in us, divide us, brainwash us with fear and play the only card they have...racism, racism, racism. If I get a hemorrhoid it's racism!

These cancel culture - vengeful organizations are using psychological propaganda tactics to keep racism aloft, damaging our society, setting our city and country back.

Wake-up, take a pause, put on the brakes....stop this run away train!

Life long native resident.

Mark

Mark

"Selling South Bay since 1979"

MarkTuccinardi@gmail.com
310.376.1177 | DRE 00714279
MarkTuccinardi.Vistasir.com

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Martha Alvarez

From: cliff allman <cliffgolf3000@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 5:04 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TF

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Please reject any suggestions the TF makes outside of what they were asked to accomplish.

Thank you.

Cliff Allman

Martha Alvarez

From: Amy Howorth <amyhoworth@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 5:00 PM
To: List - City Council; City Manager
Subject: [EXTERNAL] My thoughts on the Bruce's Beach Task Force

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Dear Mayor Hadley and esteemed City Councilmembers,

As always, thank you all for doing a thankless job at best, and one that draws hateful comments from neighbors at worst. None of you deserve the hateful comments.

I'm writing to you tonight in regards to Agenda item 12, "Considerations of the recommendations from the Bruce's Beach Task Force." I know this is arriving late in the day, so I don't expect a response! I do expect you to keep an open mind until you hear your colleagues comments as well as all of the public comments.

This was never going to be easy. The discussion was always going to be messy at best. I am grateful that you voted to have it. Keep going!

I know that there has been controversy within the task force itself. That doesn't mean their work is invalid. Please don't let that drama distract you from doing good and meaningful things. Sometimes two conflicting truths can both be true, as in "some people on the task force are critical of the City," and "the task force created meaningful ideas and has purpose going forward."

I also know that Councilmembers Napolitano and Stern have been criticized personally, along with the other task force members, for accusing the City of Manhattan Beach and its residents of being racist. This simply isn't true. From page 3 of the report itself, "*It is not the intention of this report to label or accuse everyone or any specific person or persons in Manhattan Beach as racist. Racism is nuanced and complex, a system not an event. We acknowledge that present day residents were not the residents who inflicted harm on the Bruces and others. Individuals alone are not to blame for systemic racism; however, we are all complicit in its harms, and must be accountable for its elimination. We as a community are better when we are all treated fairly, inclusively, and equitably, with respectful and socially just policies.*"

The fact that there has been such loud opposition to considering any of the items in the report, leads me to believe that there is indeed work to be done. I especially was appalled by the *anonymous* two page ad in the Beach Reporter last Thursday. First of all, we should not tolerate anonymous criticisms. WHY remain anonymous? Because they represent a minority opinion. It may be 35%, but it is still a minority.

When one has to state in bold, red letters, "We are not racist," it makes me think they are protesting too much (thanks, Shakespeare). I hope one of you(at least) will denounce this anonymous ad.

To amplify that message, the same language was sent in a flyer to my house anonymously. It made me incredibly sad and angry. I know that you are hearing loud angry voices on NextDoor and in your email box, but I encourage you to think about the voices you aren't hearing.

If you let the defensive crowd win, I believe even more unwanted (national) attention will come our way. If we truly aren't a racist town, what do we have to lose?

I do not support every recommendation in the report. I wouldn't expect you to, either. I support #1,2,5,6,7,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,19,20.

1. Conduct an additional community forum in the Spring of 2021 with the goal of educating the community on the history of Bruce's Beach, promoting dialogue and community healing, community engagement, and providing a platform for residents to share their personal stories and experiences. Afterwards, consider the efficacy of conducting additional community forums.

2. Encourage Manhattan Beach homeowners, buyers, sellers, and real estate agents/brokers to (i) check documents in the chain of title on real property in the city, including any Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&Rs) and (ii) if racial covenants are found, submit a Restrictive Covenant modification form to the County of Los Angeles to expunge the covenants. This would be a symbolic gesture to demonstrate rejection of racist practices of the past and signal that all are welcome in Manhattan Beach.

5. Incentivize City property owners to dedicate rental units and ADUs/JADUs for use as affordable housing.

6. Facilitate the attendance by appropriate City personnel to a two-day Phase I led by the Racial Equity Institute (REI). The mission of these workshops is to help a community grow in its understanding and analysis of structural racism, and to develop the tools needed to challenge patterns of power and to grow equity.

7. Join at no cost the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), a national network of government working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all, demonstrating Manhattan Beach's commitment to applying a racial equity lens toward creating a fair and just community, and rejecting all forms of bigotry, hatred, intolerance, racism and violence.

<https://www.racialequityalliance.org/about/our-approach/government>

11. Create a professional educational media piece on the history of Bruce's Beach that would be easily distributable and accessible to South Bay residents and schools.

12. Recruit young people of color for internships in City government and the police cadet program.

13. Collaborate with the Chamber of Commerce to assist local businesses to actively solicit job and internship applications from people of color from outside the City.

14. Collaborate with the City Park and Recreation Department to organize swim instruction targeting youth of color in order to qualify them for the Los Angeles County Junior Lifeguard program or otherwise ensure safety and accessibility to the ocean.

15. Collaborate with the City Parks and Recreation Department and/or in collaboration with nonprofit organizations in order to recruit young people of color into beach volleyball instruction.

16. Collaborate with the City Parks and Recreation Department and/or in collaboration with nonprofit organizations in order

17. Diversify programming of the City's summer Concerts in the Park; **PLEASE!**

19. Organize further Community Forums and Engagement as set forth in Appendix 6.

20. Create a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission (DEIC), tasked with studying and developing proposals to redress the enduring harmful impact of

systemic discrimination against Black Americans and other persons of color, increasing dialogue and awareness, advancing racial equity, and supporting educational and cultural programs for residents of the City of Manhattan Beach to focus on systemic racism and elevate culturally diverse artistic expression.

If you are still reading- thank you.

Thank you for the hard work you do all the time. I look forward to an open and thoughtful discussion.

Good luck,

Amy Howorth

Martha Alvarez

From: DJ Nelson <nelsonconsults@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 5:00 PM
To: List - City Council
Cc: Steve Napolitano
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BBTF Continuing?

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Just listened to a UTube version of what responsibility was given to BBTF.
I concluded that the task given was limited and that BBTF's continuance would be a matter for MBCC to act upon? In short, will the BBTF continue without the approval OF MBCC?
I HOPE NOT.
DARYL NELSON

Martha Alvarez

From: Gary McAulay <gary.mcaulay@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 5:00 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BBTF apology contains factual errors

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

The BBTF apology contains a number of factual errors, and even ignores its own history subcommittee report.

I have not had time to go through it point by point, but three quick examples:

Sec 2c

"historians have documented that both the Black homeowners and visitors to this neighborhood suffered intimidation, harassment, and discrimination on the basis of their race by ... a local chapter of the Ku Klux Klan. "

There are no documented cases of KKK involvement at Bruce's Beach; there are only single-witness, undocumented and uncorroborated anecdotes.

As stated in the BBTF report, "„,there was no evidence directly linking acts of harassment to the KKK..."

Sec 2i.

"As recently as 2015, an unknown person set fire to the home of a Black family, the culmination of a series of acts of vandalism on their property.

An FBI investigation officially ruled the incident a hate crime."

I do not think this is true. It is an open and so far unsolved crime. It is a possible hate crime but I and others have tried to resolve the question authoritatively and there is no basis to the statement that we have found that it was "officially ruled" a hate crime.

Sec 3B.

"The role that the City itself played by tolerating racial discrimination and harassment by City residents (including members of the Redondo Beach chapter of the Ku Klux Klan) that went unpunished, causing terror and intimidation among the Black community."

Again, KKK, no evidence, just anecdotes. The whole section is problematic.

This is just a start but should be more than sufficient to absolutely make it unacceptable in its current form.

For the history alone and without even going into the many other issues the BBTF apology should be rejected.

Martha Alvarez

From: April Halprin Wayland <aprilwayland@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 4:57 PM
To: List - City Council; City Manager
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Thank you for the BBTF ~ I urge you to continue this important work

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

To the members of the Manhattan Beach City Council and to the Bruce's Beach Task Force (BBTF) ~

On February 25th, I attended Bruce's Beach Task Force's excellent Community Forum presentation, which was particularly outstanding because of the well-documented, clearly presented history by Kristin Long, based on deep research. (Due to COVID-19 restrictions and a flood at the Los Angeles Hall of Records,, additional information the BBTF has requested is forthcoming.)

Cities across the country have begun to shine a light on similar troubling incidents in their histories.

It is hard to face the fact that our own city forced families out of this community because they were not white. Hard but necessary. This is how Democracy works: we learn the truth. We change the systems that created the troubling conditions, we teach new ways of co-existing, and then we change those systems. And in the process, we, too are changed.

I agree with two MB residents who wrote:

"I don't think that adding a new plaque to the property is sufficient to right this wrong..."

and

"One common narrative is that MB has been or will be labeled a 'racist city' if the task force is allowed to continue. I think the opposite is true. Addressing this racist incident in our past is complicated. It deserves time and nuanced thought, not a rush to completion."

To this end, I urge the City Council to support the continuation of the BBTF and a healthy conversation about racism, the underlying practices that support it in our community, and ways we can change them.

This is how we become to be a civilized society. And decent human beings.

Sincerely,
April Wayland

Martha Alvarez

From: Lorraine Boyer <lolopalm@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 4:54 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BBTF

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

To

The 5 members of Manhattan Beach City Council,

I support the dismantling of the Bruce Beach Task Force,, and reject the reports by the BBTF.

Concerned residents of Manhattan Beach

Lorraine and Jeffry Boyer

Martha Alvarez

From: Maureen Leral-Denitz <modenitz@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 4:49 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Bruce's beach task force

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Sorry sent this to wrong address. See below

On Mar 16, 2021 at 2:16 PM, <[Maureen Leral-Denitz](mailto:Maureen.Leral-Denitz)> wrote:

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

Hope you all are well. I oppose the BB task force continuation beyond tonight and against any formation of a DEI commission moving forward. What was done a century ago to the Bruce family and others was wrong and we've made great strides against racism through the following years. I believe a plaque and artwork along with gathering factual history is enough. Four months is a long time and hopefully those items have been completed. If not, perhaps we can form an Art committee to complete the items.

Offering an acknowledgment instead of an apology would be better since we had nothing to do with this racism a century ago.

I believe our town has suffered enough media attention because of the false narrative that has been perpetuated by outside political groups. I hope we can get back to some normalcy of pre 2020.

Thank you for reading

Appreciate all you are doing

Best

Mo Denitz

Martha Alvarez

From: lynn thompson <lynnmikami@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 4:28 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] apologize about Bruce's Beach please!!

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hi, I'm writing to encourage you to do the right thing about making some form of apology to the racist actions of the past as far as Bruce's Beach is concerned. We need to address systemic racism and some sort of action on this is the right thing to do! Thankyou so much, Lynn Thompson

Martha Alvarez

From: Melody B <melody@perryscafe.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 4:23 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce Beach

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear city Council,

Please stop making racism and gender identification as an issue to divide the people in this city and in this country. We all acknowledge the past issues of discrimination but the more you focus on it the worse it is because it divides us more and more. We are looking for things that are unifying us and bringing us together. There are ways to do it besides dividing us. You can do it with a special commemoration or acknowledgment or a fundraiser to donate to a specific minority organization. We need to move on beyond pettiness and pointing out what's wrong and looking for what's right and doing good things to make it right. You may have good intentions but this new racial equality and social justice agenda perpetuated from the top down is not what most people want. Thank you I Melody Chacker

Sent from my iPhone

Martha Alvarez

From: Gary McAulay <gary.mcaulay@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 4:20 PM
To: List - City Council; City Manager
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Time to end the BB Task Force with thanks

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Council

From the beginning I was concerned about starting a task force that had an ill-defined task. It seemed that there was a desire to leave it open-ended, although the very purpose of a task force is to complete a task.

That seemed to be:

to report on the true, factual history of Bruce's Beach Park

to write a corrected plaque for Bruce's Beach Park

to recommend some kind of commemorative art piece for Bruce's Beach Park

Somehow the Bruce's Beach Task Force ballooned in both size and mission, and it got seriously off track. They seem to think that they are now something more akin to a standing commission.

They were not selected to be a standing commission with an ever-expanding, open-ended mission.

It is time to close the Task Force with thanks for their volunteerism, their time, and their sincere hard work.

Respectfully,
Gary D. McAulay

Martha Alvarez

From: Louise Wolf <ldwolfpack@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 4:17 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meeting 3/16/21

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Mayor Hadley and Council members:

I am looking forward to tonight's meeting. I would hope that any recommendations put forth by the Task Force will be taken under consideration but not be decided on until there has been considerable input from the residents of this community. I'm sure Council will be holding further discussion among themselves as well.

Sincerely, Louise Wolf
Sent from my iPhone

Martha Alvarez

From: sarostars@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 4:13 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: BBTF

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

I don't support the expansion beyond the three original tasks, nor do I support any apology or language anywhere that states or implies the residents or the police force are racist. Any such statement or implication is insulting, and I do not believe it to be true.

I understand you must feel pressure from outside forces who have their own agenda in branding this town racist, or in having this town support giving money and/or land to a family, but you must be fair and honest, and not allow MB to be used. You represent all the citizens of Manhattan Beach, and it is your job and your responsibility to fairly and accurately represent us all, not just the loudest voices who are insistent on getting their way by ignoring facts that are inconvenient to their narrative.

I believe anything implemented, or any statements made, going beyond the three original tasks, not just requires, but demands, full resident participation, as the impact will affect us, and represent us, in all the years to come.

Thank you, Susan

Martha Alvarez

From: Jen Jenkins Dohner <jendohner@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 4:12 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter in Support of the Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City Council Members-
CC: LA County Supervisor, Janice Hahn

In recent weeks I've been made aware of a small but noisy local campaign seeking to thwart the efforts of the Bruce's Beach Task Force. The tactics being used by this group are similar in nature to tactics used regarding other hot-button issues for the group: incendiary e-mail forwards within the community, kneejerk cut-and-paste email campaigns to elected officials, and propaganda-style fliers stuffed in local mailboxes around town. The goals appear to be outrage, division, and willful ignorance and the result is that far more heat than light is being applied to an important and nuanced issue that deserves thoughtfulness, contemplation and meaningful redress.

There is a reflexive frame applied by this Outrage Caucus that I hope you'll reject. It goes something like: "The Task Force says Manhattan Beach is Racist!" (Insert outrage here.) If in response to a statement like this, you acknowledge racism in our history, then you are painted with this same polarizing brush they are using to paint the Task Force. If you try to counter their assertion, then you downplay that racism sadly does exist in our town, and strengthen their attempt to deny it. The fact of the matter is that it is not accurate to call Manhattan Beach entirely racist and it is also not accurate to declare Manhattan Beach free of all racism. What's true is that, as with just about anywhere, racism exists here, both historically and at present.

Just last month, surfers Brick Howze and Gage Crismond were subject to racist harassment while enjoying our local surf break. They were called the "n" word and told they didn't belong here. This is clear evidence that racism exists to this very day in Manhattan Beach. My heart, however, was warmed by our community's part in the anti-racist response to that incident. Hundreds attended and paddled out for the resulting [Black Sands Peace Paddle](#) to make a stand against the racist incident. I am heartened to know that others in my community feel as I do: that people of color deserve dignity, respect, and welcome in our town.

Whoever got the idea that Black people don't belong in Manhattan Beach may have gotten it in part due to the treatment of the Bruce Family nearly 100 years ago. Back then, their rightfully owned land and resort were seized using eminent domain against their will. The family was stripped of the generational wealth they could have accumulated had they been allowed to keep the property, and our town was stripped of a charming resort with food, drink, and dance where, in the oft-repeated words of Willa Bruce: "All [were] welcome." If after reading this recent [New York Times Article](#) about it, you can't bring yourself to acknowledge that as an act of systemic racism, then perhaps you are part of the problem and one of the reasons Manhattan Beach is still less than one percent Black.

A far better and more productive question than "Are we racist or not?" is "What are we going to do about it?" because the answer to the question of whether we are racist or not lies partially in how and whether we are willing to right the wrongs of our past. Racism is really just a form of ignorance bred by lies and disinformation. When you know better, you do better. Please, I beg of you: open yourselves up to knowing better. Reject this willful ignorance. It has got to be utterly exhausting. I know that bearing witness to it is,

not to mention sickening and mortifying. Denying racism doesn't erase it, but rather adds additional insult to the original injury. There may be racism in Manhattan Beach's past, but we get to decide whether to perpetuate it. Allow the Bruce's Beach Task Force to do its important work, and heed the findings of its report. I hope it will lead our fair city to respond to this past injustice in a meaningful way that is tangible not just to the Bruce Family, but to anyone who would like to think Manhattan Beach is truly a place where "All are (actually) welcome."

Sincerely,
Jen Jenkins Dohner
Manhattan Beach Resident and Voter for 20 years and counting

P.S. Here was my public e-comment on the issue.

[Jen Dohner](#) at March 16, 2021 at 3:39pm PDT

[Support](#)

The Outrage Caucus of Manhattan Beach brings more heat than light to an important and nuanced conversation. A direct line can be drawn between attitudes behind the Bruce Family Story from 100 years ago and what happened to two surfers trying to enjoy our local surf break just last month.

Just because there's racism in our past does not mean it must be part of our future. Denying it ever existed, though, only perpetuates it.

Heed the Task Force Report.

A 20 year Voter and Resident of MB.

JEN JENKINS DOHNER

TEXT: 310.780.1780

[ArtWithHeartByJenksy on Etsy](#)



Martha Alvarez

From: Wayne Nelson <wnelson@nelsongilmore.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 4:07 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's beach task force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

As a long time MB resident, I would like to express my concern over the shocking overreach in the proposals submitted by the task force.

I would certainly consider donating time and money to a recall effort for any council person who supported these proposals.

I look forward to the zoom meeting tonight.

Sent from my iPad

Martha Alvarez

From: Emma Broussard-Wilson <emma@nowandzenprod.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 5:16 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment in Support of Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hello,

I am in full support of the recommendations provided by the BBTF and the work they have been doing to support the community. The proposed apology is an important first step in making MB a more inclusive community. Supporting the apology in no way equates to labeling all residents as racist. While I loved calling Manhattan Beach home for 25 years, I can confidently say that in my experience as a Black person growing up in this city, it was far from inclusive. In the words of Hugh Mackay, "To withhold an apology when we know we have erred in some way is a sign not only of breathtaking arrogance but also of insecurity. It's as if we are afraid that admitting fault is tantamount to admitting weakness," When, in fact, the opposite is true - apologizing requires strength, humility, courage and confidence. I'm choosing to believe that the ignorant words we saw in the 2 page Beach Reporter ad were those of a loud minority because the community members that I know personally have good hearts, do not condone racist rhetoric, and understand the value of acknowledgement and accountability, regardless of how much time has passed. I hope that the City Council will consider each of the recommendations and allow the work of the Task Force to continue.

Thank you,
Emma

N O W
A N D
Z E N | Emma Broussard-Wilson
Producer
emma@nowandzenprod.com
310.630.7495
nowandzenprod.com

Martha Alvarez

From: Lisa Valicente <lvalicente@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 4:32 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

To Whom it May Concern:

Today at the Manhattan Beach city council meeting, there will be a discussion about the Bruce's Beach Task Force and their recommendation that the city of Manhattan Beach issue an apology to the Bruce family. I will be unable to attend the meeting, therefore I am sending this email in support of the task force's recommendation.

I have been a part of the Manhattan Beach community since I attended Mira Costa High School, and have lived in the South Bay for my whole life, so this issue is important to me. I feel strongly that an apology is required to move this neighborhood forward. This will be an important act of restorative justice and a display of respect for the Bruce Family, who were once a part of our community.

Thank you for your time.

Lisa Valicente

Martha Alvarez

From: Karen Klink <klinky2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 4:06 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City of Manhattan Beach,

Ever hear that saying "Doth protest too loudly" That is what is going on here! Everyone who is screaming we don't want to talk about Racism, Institutional Racism, Systemic Racism in Manhattan Beach might be a "Racist" Sorry but... If you are afraid of the topic you have a problem so don't drive out the task force, listen to it, they are not divisive, the people who won't be named and put out 2 page ad in the Beach Reporter are divisive. The whole country is watching and waiting for Manhattan Beach to do the right thing here. Listen to Councilmember Stern, be on the right side of history. Keep the task force, apologize and make reparations.

Much Gratitude,

**Karen Klink
South Bay Cares
310-339-9761**

Martha Alvarez

From: Steve Fazzio <stevefazzio@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 4:04 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: MB Bruce Beach Task Force has come to an end
Attachments: BBTF Continued Efforts.pdf; ATT00001.htm

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City Council Members,

I again want to voice my strong opinion that this task force has completed its assigned tasks and needs to be disbanded.

This task force was a bad idea from the beginning. Even their final recommendations are divisive and foster a culture of victimization. We have nothing to apologize for.

Council members Stern and Napolitano let this task force post inflammatory drafts on the City website and, in my opinion, should be held responsible if the BLM mob descends on us and riots. Look at what happened in Hollywood over the weekend if you don't think this is possible.

We are not a racist city, but this task force has been able to get the media to label us as racist and ruin the reputation of our community.

Please disband the task force tonight.

Sincerely,

Steve Fazzio
2516 Pine Avenue Homeowner

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Bruce's Beach: Get The Facts" <brucebeachgetthefacts@gmail.com>
Date: March 16, 2021 at 3:36:40 PM PDT
To: "Bruce's Beach: Get The Facts" <brucebeachgetthefacts@gmail.com>
Subject: **MB Bruce Beach Task Force has come to an end**

Watch and participate in tonight's City Council Meeting: <https://citymb-info.zoom.us/j/93376200363>

There will be a time for public comments. Just raise your hand!
Start time 6:00

Dear Like-Minded Residents,

The Bruce's Beach Task Force mission has come to an end and it is time for it to be disbanded. As a community, we graciously thank them for their time on the tasks they were asked to complete.

They have completed 2 of the 3 tasks they were given on Oct 27, 2020.

- We have the History Report, which will need to be reviewed and discussed by Council for approval.
- We have the recommendation for the Art Commission, which will also need Council approval.
- We do not have the wording for the new plaque, but do we really need a 13 member TF to write the new wording?

They did spend a great deal of time on a Resolution of Apology Letter, something they were never missioned to do by Council.

Telling residents to apologize for racist acts they never committed did not go over well with the community, and Council has been hearing about it in the hundreds of emails they have received. The presumption by the TF that an apology was appropriate, and not one member voicing a differing opinion or thinking to even ask the community its opinion, has caused divisiveness in our community that is palpable.

Had the TF engaged residents, they would have received feedback and options such as A Resolution of Acknowledgment and why this is more accurate of a statement, but then again, they were not tasked with an Apology Letter by City Council.

Although their mission has ended, they are under the presumption they will continue on as a body.

Until they are disbanded, here is their self-prescribed Action List:

We've added some questions that perhaps the Task Force did not take into consideration when making this list:

- **Create a permanent SOCIAL JUSTICE committee to "redress" SYSTEMIC DISCRIMINATION by advancing "racial equity."**
 - The trend sweeping across the county is cities establishing a "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission."
 - sounds benign, but this unelected body would have unbridled access and authority in all areas of our city: City Hall, PD, Schools, and Businesses.
 - a DEIC would find problems of diversity and equity under every rock and around every corner.
 - one mission would be to "redress," to "set right," pay "reparations," or to "compensate" for past wrongdoings. *Definitions of "redress" provided by Merriam-Webster.*
- **Hire a DEI expert to AUDIT the city**
 - What exactly would this expert be "auditing" and what are the ramifications if we are not in "compliance?"
- **Assist the MBPD with a collection of race-based data and all things race-related.**
 - the TF would act as a de facto Police Commissioner.
 - do we want an unelected body of individuals acting as oversight to our Police Dept?
- **Develop affordable housing and homeless shelters, and flip rental units into affordable housing projects**
 - how does the Bruce story relate to homeless shelters and low-income housing?
 - how will low-income housing and homeless shelters impact the Schools and Police Department?
 - what financial impact does this have on our taxes?
 - how will these additions to the city impact property values?

- Enroll city staff in a Racial Equity training program
 - the term Racial Equity is not in the dictionary. Equity can mean "justice," it can also have a "monetary" definition. It's ambiguous.
 - What is the cost of this training? Is it ongoing and who from "staff" participates?

We encourage all residents to review their plans for MB in the attached file "**Task Force Continued Efforts.**"

You can also view a 5-min video where Task Force Member Michael Jenkins, the City Attorney for Hermosa Beach, confirms the TF permanency with co-chairs Stern and Napolitano: https://youtu.be/IsLSHbWR_rc

It's made clear the BBTF will continue with their Action List - Appendix 5 until City Council disbands it.

You can review the BBTF Mission Statement set by City Council under the leadership of Mayor Montgomery here: https://youtu.be/yTXn_5vBlxw

The precedence with a Task Force in MB is it has a beginning and an end, it is then disbanded even if the task has not been 100% completed.

Such was the case with our homeless Task Force. It came to an end and was disbanded, much to the objections of its members.

On their own, members created MBSafe, a tax-exempt nonprofit that does a tremendous service for our city and the homeless.

The Bruce Beach Task Force mission has also come to an end.

Presumably, some members will object, but perhaps they can be encouraged by looking to new ways they can harness their passion for this issue, and be inspired by residents who created MBSafe.

~Concerned Residents of Manhattan Beach

Appendix 5

Task Force Continued Efforts

The Bruce's Beach Task Force would serve as an advisory body to provide input to the City Council in support of the adopted September 5, 2017 Stand Up Commitment and the recommendations resulting from the continuing work of the Task Force, as described below. The Task Force would work with other South Bay leadership groups such as the El Segundo DEIC and the MBUSD EDSJI on city-wide projects, education and initiatives, and continue to develop a climate of care, equity, diversity, social justice, and inclusion in our community. The Task Force recommends that the City Council authorize it to explore the following initiatives:

1. Conduct an additional community forum in the Spring of 2021 with the goal of educating the community on the history of Bruce's Beach, promoting dialogue and community healing, community engagement, and providing a platform for residents to share their personal stories and experiences. Afterwards, consider the efficacy of conducting additional community forums.
2. Encourage Manhattan Beach homeowners, buyers, sellers, and real estate agents/brokers to (i) check documents in the chain of title on real property in the city, including any Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&Rs) and (ii) if racial covenants are found, submit a Restrictive Covenant modification form to the County of Los Angeles to expunge the covenants. This would be a symbolic gesture to demonstrate rejection of racist practices of the past and signal that all are welcome in Manhattan Beach.
3. Assist the Manhattan Beach Police Department to expedite collection of race-based data with an eye to eliminating racial profiling. The Racial and Identity Profiling Act (AB953) requires that all Police Departments in the State of California collect race-based data, as overseen by the California Department of Justice. The MB Police Department is required to begin collecting this data by January 1, 2022, and reporting the data to the DOJ by April 1, 2023.¹ The Task Force seeks to enable regular RIPA data reports to the City Council on or before December 31, 2021.
4. Facilitate and encourage development of affordable housing units and attendant entitlements within the City.
5. Incentivize City property owners to dedicate rental units and ADUs/JADUs for use as affordable housing.
6. Facilitate the attendance by appropriate City personnel to a two-day Phase I workshop led by the Racial Equity Institute (REI). The mission of these workshops is to help a community grow in its understanding and analysis of

¹ <https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/ripa/ripa-board-report-2020.pdf>

structural racism, and to develop the tools needed to challenge patterns of power and to grow equity.

7. Join at no cost the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), a national network of government working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all, demonstrating Manhattan Beach's commitment to applying a racial equity lens toward creating a fair and just community, and rejecting all forms of bigotry, hatred, intolerance, racism and violence.
<https://www.racialequityalliance.org/about/our-approach/government/>
8. Hire a DEI expert or organization to audit and consult with the City.
9. Sponsor an annual scholarship of \$1,500 to high school students who will study African American history in college.
10. Sponsor a grant of \$1,000 to graduate students who pursue the study of the racial history of Manhattan Beach.
11. Create a professional educational media piece on the history of Bruce's Beach that would be easily distributable and accessible to South Bay residents and schools.
12. Recruit young people of color for internships in City government and the police cadet program.
13. Collaborate with the Chamber of Commerce to assist local businesses to actively solicit job and internship applications from people of color from outside the City.
14. Collaborate with the City Park and Recreation Department to organize swim instruction targeting youth of color in order to qualify them for the Los Angeles County Junior Lifeguard program or otherwise ensure safety and accessibility to the ocean.
15. Collaborate with the City Parks and Recreation Department and/or in collaboration with nonprofit organizations in order to recruit young people of color into beach volleyball instruction.
16. Collaborate with the City Parks and Recreation Department and/or in collaboration with nonprofit organizations in order to recruit young people of color into programs for water safety and surfing.
17. Diversify programming of the City's summer Concerts in the Park;
18. Organize multicultural youth and family sports and cultural events intended to create diversity and inclusiveness in Manhattan Beach.
19. Organize further Community Forums and Engagement as set forth in Appendix 6.
20. Create a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission (DEIC), tasked with studying and developing proposals to redress the enduring harmful impact of

systemic discrimination against Black Americans and other persons of color, increasing dialogue and awareness, advancing racial equity, and supporting educational and cultural programs for residents of the City of Manhattan Beach to focus on systemic racism and elevate culturally diverse artistic expression.

21. Collaborate with the County of Los Angeles as authorized by the City Council with regard to the future disposition of the County lifeguard headquarters on the land formerly owned by the Bruce's.

Martha Alvarez

From: Lorcan Kilmartin <lorcankilmartin@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 3:53 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MB City Council Public Comment

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

My name is Lorcan Kilmartin, I am a resident and homeowner in Manhattan Beach, and I strongly encourage City Council to embark on reparations for the descendants of Bruce's Beach, in terms of monetary reparations, returning the land, or selling the land to developers and providing proceeds to the descendants. This is an opportunity for Manhattan Beach to right a wrong and lead as an example nationally in the struggle for racial justice.

Thanks,

Lorcan Kilmartin

Martha Alvarez

From: Stephanie Monash <smonash@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 3:45 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Councilmembers,

Those who fail to stand up to bullies will be forever on their knees. An accurate accounting of what happened at Bruce's Beach 100 years ago is owed to history; fidelity and fiscal responsibility are your duty to the residents of Manhattan Beach today.

Shameless opportunists are taking advantage of the current political climate to exploit and abuse our community. Sadly, thus far you appear to have you have abandoned us for the sake of expediency and a lack of will. Why else was this task force even created? The scope of remedy should have been apparent at the outset: Research the history and rewrite the plaque, if warranted. Anything more is pandering, plain and simple. These hucksters don't give a damn about what happened 100 years ago. They are in it for the money and our community is an easy mark.

Let me put another spin on it for your consideration: How would you address this if the Bruces had been Caucasian Jews, rather than Black? What about White people who have had property in Manhattan Beach seized by eminent domain under questionable circumstances (e.g., the taking of Brown Ranch where Polliwog Park now sits)? From my perspective, you are engaging in reverse discrimination, which is in fact a form of racism.

The task force should thanked for their service and disbanded immediately without taking further action beyond the rewriting of the plaque. I question the need for tax dollars being used to create an art piece unless the community as a whole has a say in the final selection. Definitely no apology should be given on behalf of the City (i.e., current residents) as it is likely to be leveraged to create liability for litigation. Nor should the City of Manhattan Beach and its residents bear the yoke of an "equity commission" overseer to monitor and direct our behavior.

One (long past) injustice is not cured by the creation of another. It's time to do the right thing for the people you were elected to serve.

Stephanie Monash

Manhattan Beach

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Martha Alvarez

From: thomas seth <tomin310@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 3:39 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hello City Council,

I believe racism is horrible and it's a shame that it was so prevalent in our country 100 years ago, it is certainly not prevalent in Manhattan Beach now. When I first heard about the Task force I was not opposed to it. I would really like to know the true history of Bruce's beach. I spend a lot of time there and really don't know much about it. Now that I see some of the things that task force is saying and proposing there is no way I would believe that their history report would be at all accurate.

I would like to see the Bruce's Beach Task Force disbanded, and any spin off diversity task force/ committee rejected. The city of Manhattan Beach is very welcoming and inclusive to all races so there is no need for such committees trying to prove otherwise.

Thank you,

Tom Seth

30 year Manhattan Beach resident

Sent from the beach

Martha Alvarez

From: Andi Svenneby <asvenneby@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 3:37 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment on item J12

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

I am writing in to urge the City of Manhattan Beach to hold itself accountable for the racism historically and presently taking place in regards to the Bruce's property being unjustly taken away under the guise of imminent domain to build a park that took decades to build. A park is no reason to steal anyone's land anyways.

These actions have cost the Bruce's family lots of generational wealth that should be fairly calculated and paid back, as well as the land returned.

What side of history will the City of Manhattan Beach be on in 2021? Will you repeat history or have you learned this lesson yet?

Thank you,

Andrea Svenneby

Martha Alvarez

From: Mike Rozenblatt <mrozenblatt@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 3:35 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Bruce's Beach

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Council members,

When I read the history, I understand that all property owners regardless of race were bought out and given an opportunity to purchase another residence in Manhattan Beach. The Black family whose fortune we are discussing chose not to purchase in Manhattan Beach.

I don't see any racial injustice by what took place 100 years ago.

I don't believe that the city is racist, or that in need of education or training.

I am against the committee recommendation, and I believe that they are overreacting to political trends and rumors instead of assessing the facts of what actually took place.

The city should resist implementing policies in reaction to public hysteria of a small fraction of the community. The city was not and is not racist and there is no corrective action that needs to be taken!

I have been a resident of Manhattan Beach since 1979, my marriage is a mixed race and I can speak first hand that we have never seen racist attitudes from the various city boards, departments, schools, etc. or from its residents. We strongly reject the falsehood that racism exists and needs to be addressed.

Mike Rozenblatt

+1 310-971-7871

On Tue, Mar 16, 2021 at 2:56 PM Dan Stern <danstern88@aol.com> wrote:

Council members,

Put in context of the time 100 years ago actions taken by M. B.

The family's forced out were paid a fair price and Black people were allowed to live in town.

a) I do not feel guilty about those actions, and

b) do not believe the city is racist now or needs education/training.

Perhaps I'm not Woke, but this is a crazy path the city is pursuing.

Standing up to unreasonable demands is not racist!

Dan Stern,

former Mayor

Martha Alvarez

From: Alison Chavez <coffeychavez@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2021 9:42 AM
To: List - City Council; City Manager
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City Council,

I want to thank you for the unintentional consequences of walking that fine line between avoiding actually doing the right thing and looking like you're doing something.

Those consequences? Publicity! And not the good kind.

We're in the New York Times this

week! <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/11/us/bruce-family-manhattan-beach.html?referringSource=articleShare>

Keep this up and we can make the international news! Suppressing this issue only makes it bubble up everywhere. All eyes on us now!

Janice Hahn must be pretty frustrated with the thinly veiled bigotry expressed by a very vocal group of residents; like an echo from our racist past. Is she really considering returning the life guard training facility to the Bruce family? I guess it goes to show, the more you try to wiggle out of this, the more this city will lose.

Let's talk about these 'Conservative Terrorists' (self-labeled by [REDACTED]), who seek to be the voice of MB, and you're letting them. [As an aside, this reminds me of the Republican senators implying election fraud out of fear of being targeted by crazy Trump supporters-shout out to our current mayor!]

To name a few-

[REDACTED] who rants unintelligibly (not a language barrier) and alternately calls people Socialist and then Fascist. Ha ha.

[REDACTED] who sounds like she's slowly losing her marbles.

[REDACTED] who once worked on the Navajo Rez and is opposed to teaching cultural diversity in our schools. What?!?!?

[REDACTED] who circulates disgusting emails labeling our politically active kids, "Children of the Corn" and has set his sights on them.

This group and their QAnon followers seem to have a hold over you and this town.

The latest? That beautifully ugly 2 page ad in the Beach Reporter. Please thank them for me, will you? I don't have the resources to call attention to this issue and to get the

average, inactive, and unaware MB resident involved.

The Conservative Terrorists did it for me! Please tell them to put an ad in the Daily Breeze too.

In conclusion, keep up the good work and see you on Tuesday!

- Alison Chavez aka The Local Malcontent

(thank [REDACTED] for this moniker. I love it!)

***Redacted upon request.**

Martha Alvarez

From: Joe Heumann <joeheumann@twc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 3:34 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce Beach

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hi,

I live on 449 28th Street. My name is Joe Heumann. I would like you to end the Bruce's Beach Task Force. I would also like to see the Bruce descendants get restitution for what happened to them.

Joe Heumann

Martha Alvarez

From: Vanessa Gibbons <vanessa.gibbons@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 3:33 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] PUBLIC COMMENT FOR 3/16

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Manhattan Beach City Council,

Please vote yes to the recommendations by the Bruce's Beach Task Force.

I first heard about Bruce's Beach on social media. On my first visit to Manhattan Beach, for the Blacksand Peace Paddle on February 21, 2021, I drove past the park memorializing the Bruce family's contribution to the community. The Peace Paddle was organized by a group of BIPOC surfers after a young black man had been called the N-word by an older white man in the water. None of the white people witnessing the verbal assault said anything. We have not solved racism.

Now is the time for reparations, reconciliation, doing better, and speaking up for justice.

Thank you,
Vanessa

Martha Alvarez

From: Leland Dolley <ldolley1@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 3:28 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Council meeting
Attachments: LD MABEACH 2021.docx

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Would you please make the attached available to the council and the public for tonight's meeting?

Many thanks,

Lee Dolley

March 16, 2021

For the members of the City Council of the City of Manhattan Beach:

Please let me introduce us, I am "Lee" Dolley and my wife is "Pat Dolley." We were both born in Manhattan Beach and our parents moved here in the late 1920s/early 30s. We have lived on 13th street for nearly 50 years

We are astounded, astonished and of major disbelief that this "commission" would have the audacity to blame an entire community of people who have lived here and come and gone from here as of racists. They cannot accuse hundreds of thousands of people without proof and in any event, they are hardly a qualified prosecutor who must prove charges beyond a reasonable doubt. Nor are they judges or members of a jury. As a former Deputy District Attorney I can swear to that.

We urge the City Council to reject out of hand the recommendations of this group who seek nothing more than to be divisive and disruptive.

Our mothers were of the original sandpipers, Neptunian Club members and National Charity League members. They lived through the depression and a war, they raised their kids. They made bandages and candles for the war effort. They founded the PTA and saw to it that the children had school nurses and buses. They gave of themselves to others. Our fathers were builders. My dad was on the school Board at the time Grandview school was built. My father was a councilmember and mayor here and planned for the future and mastered the financial needs of the city. They both raised money to build their churches. They helped the city grow and flourish.

They were decent people as were the thousands who lived and passed through this city. They gave, they helped and loved those in need. To accuse them of events taking place over 100 years ago is an insult.

I wonder if any member of the commission has any idea of the numbers of people who live here who do silently for others. Leave the city to help others. Do acts of kindness every day.

I remember as a boy walking by the structure at the condemned property on the strand. I recall my mother telling us of what happened and how wrong it was.

Bob Brigham taught our children in his class. He taught us in his "news."

Would it not be far more productive to create a commission to find ways to help those in need and to set apart time to go to Los Angeles and "walk the walk?"

For instance, does the commission know that right here in our city each month there are dances which are attended by young adults of many rainbow ethnic heritages and of many rainbow special needs? Ask me when and where after the virus and I will tell you. Come and be joyful. I am.

Can a commission work with the many people and organizations who give of themselves to others, to work and teach and give sports equipment to kids in Los Angeles, and who support educational facilities?

Has any member of the commission ever driven to downtown LA at 5:00 in the morning to take food and clothing to the hunger and poor – to the needy? To sit by a young girl who has no hope and who cannot comprehend? We have.

Can the commission find ways to support all in their needs and desires for dignity of all people and of all races? We have.

Has the commission ever walked in a march near the corners of Slauson and Central? A march to honor those who have been murdered in drive-by shootings. Have they chanted “what do we want” and “peace now” and carried peace and love signs? We have.

Peace and hope for the future are the way. A divisive and unfounded set of recommendations is not.

We urge the Council to reject the commission’s recommendations and follow a bright, peaceful and active future. One in which a deep love for others counts.

In any event we forgive the members of the commission and will pray for them.

Lee Dolley

Martha Alvarez

From: Sharon Conrad <sharon.conrad@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 3:27 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dismantle Bruce Beach Task Force on 3/16/21

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

No more delay tactics by Napolitano & Stern, reject the reports by the BBTF

Sent from my iPhone

Martha Alvarez

From: Margaret Cook <sunshellseeker@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 3:14 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Tonight's Meeting

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

City Council,

I'm certain you have received an overwhelming amount of input regarding the work of the Bruce's Beach Task Force. Rather than repeat what you've likely read many times over, I would like to simply state:

- The task force should be disbanded once their deliverable has been met. They have proven that they cannot work effectively together and that they cannot stay within stated scope. This is NOT a high functioning group.
- The history document should NOT be accepted without an unbiased 3rd party review and verification of information. What has been presented does not represent all of the facts. Uncover the real truth, including the details of the litigation with the Bruce family.
- I recommend involving the City Attorney in what may become potential litigation against the City based on any actions you take that do not support this group of rouge individuals, BLM, or the many unfounded claims they are making.
- Please represent the interests of those you have been elected to serve. We agree that an acknowledgement of past wrongdoings is deserved, but NO APOLOGY should be made for unsubstantiated racism.
- Let's not get swept up in the "woke" movement and feel guilty for sins we have not committed.

Tonight I urge you to:

1. Accept the art installation & plaque update
2. Ask for outside verification of the history documents before accepting as truth.
3. Do NOT agree to sign the apology document or ANY documents stating the need for any kind of DEIC task force or ongoing work.
4. Thank the committee for their work and disband them.

Thank you,
Margaret Cook

Martha Alvarez

From: Scott C. Chambers <mbchambers4@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 3:06 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear city council members Tonight is the night when history will be made good our bad. As elected officials you were voted into office with the duty of serving our city and its constituents. Not the national debate over racism. If this was a court I would object "introducing facts not in evidence." There is a whole lot of hearsay going on concerning the history of Bruce's Beach. With just a little research I found out that a expert historian Jan Dennis was never interviewed. I was told this was because most of her info was obtained through Bob Brigham's thesis .A thesis That Bob himself stated was mostly based on hearsay since the incident was so long ago. But more importantly the BBTF did not go to Cal State Dominguez And view the actual photographic record of the time. I myself was shown two different photos that call into question what life was really like back then. Showing African Americans on the city pier where the report says they were not allowed. I then I had a brief online chat with Ally Hales and is obvious that at she has a bias and is only looking for the info that supported her personal take on racism in our town while ignoring exculpatory evidence such as the fact it is said the Bruce's had a sign that said " all are welcome" Plus there is the high probability the dance hall was the main concern. I guarantee you put a dance hall there now the noise pollution police would be out in force. I am not an investigator but neither are they. Please shut this BBTF down hire a real investigator if you really want to get to the truth. It goes without saying you should say no to an apology and no to the permanent committee. The facts are just not there. IMHO
Kindest regards,
Scott C. Chambers

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Martha Alvarez

From: Dan Stern <danstern88@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 2:56 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach

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Council members,

Put in context of the time 100 years ago actions taken by M. B.

The family's forced out were paid a fair price and Black people were allowed to live in town.

a) I do not feel guilty about those actions, and

b) do not believe the city is racist now or needs education/training.

Perhaps I'm not Woke, but this is a crazy path the city is pursuing.

Standing up to unreasonable demands is not racist!

*Dan Stern,
former Mayor*

Martha Alvarez

From: Alice Neuhauser <apntrc@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 2:55 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

We have watched with growing concern the extreme reactions by many people in the South Bay, first to the Black Lives Matters protests last year and then the recent discussions around Bruce's Beach. The anger and the unwillingness to even have a fulsome conversation, let alone an acknowledgement of system racism in our community, as in our state, country and world is disheartening. Acknowledging systemic racism does not call anyone, or even a city, racist. It means we all have a lot to do to make our community and our world inclusive for everyone, not just socially but financially, legally, medically and so forth.

I fully support the edited Resolution submitted by Councilmember Stern and continuing the work of the Bruce's Beach Task Force. Contrary to the hysterical ads in the March 11, 2021 The Beach Reporter, we "Concerned Residents of MB" are concerned with working toward positive changes for everyone. We have a long way to go and will be proud for Manhattan Beach to be a part of the solution.

Thank you for your consideration,

Alice & Thomas

Alice P. Neuhauser and Thomas R. Conroy
P: 310-275-7505
apntrc@msn.com



Please consider whether it is necessary to print this email.

Martha Alvarez

From: Kathleen Gibbons <kgconsults@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 2:53 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach and Support for Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Manhattan Beach Council Members,

We are in FULL SUPPORT of Mayor Pro Tem Hildy Stern's alternative resolution of apology which acknowledges and apologizes for the City of Manhattan Beach's role in the Bruce's Beach properties, and commits, as a community, to racial equality and inclusion.

Sincerely,
Kathleen and Bruce Gibbons
Manhattan Beach residents

Martha Alvarez

From: Bob Zwissler <kamibobz@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 2:42 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on Bruce's Beach Agenda Item

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City Council

My wife and I moved here in the early 1980's (she went to high school here), giving us several decades of insight into this community.

There were virtually no Black people in the community then. It was not uncommon to see Black men, sitting on a curb, being interrogated by a couple of uniformed police officers. These acts seemed aimed at encouraging black people to avoid our community.

A friend, who worked parking enforcement for the city in the 1980's., She related that it was common to hear the announcement of a Black person in MB over the police radio using the code word "NIM", which was short for N_____ in Manhattan".

Our house was built in the 1947. The original deed for the house had restrictions preventing the sale of the property to a Black person. Later, we found a newspaper advertisement for our house that used the code words "in wisely restricted Manhattan Village". Although they are unenforceable, I believe those words are still on the deed.

My son's soccer coach in the late 90's was one of the few Black residents in MB. He has shared his story on Facebook of when he was stopped by the police in front of his house bringing pizza home for dinner. He had lived in the town for many years at that time. I do not believe this was an isolated event.

Many of the families that live in MB have lived here for decades. We used generational wealth amassed by our families, and our ethnic status, to move here. Those of us that still live here look forward to passing our accumulated generational wealth to our children. That's how the system works.

Simply put, the Bruce family, and other black families in the enclave, threatened that system by buying property in the middle of our community. That threat was eliminated by moving them out. They were denied the same opportunities that their white neighbors were.

I have always thought that the Bruce's Beach park provided marginal recreational and open space benefits. The beach and the strand are less than a 100 yards away. On my daily walks I often pass by the park and it seems to be sparsely used. I know that using the land for something else would cause an uproar in the neighborhood. But what change in MB doesn't?

We are not sure what the proper response is. But we do support efforts that attempt to make things right.

Robert Zwissler and Gretchen Renshaw
1138 18th Street, Manhattan Beach

Martha Alvarez

From: dnyznyk@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 2:42 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am a 43 year resident of Manhattan Beach. My wife and I have raised four daughters here, and we continue to love this wonderful city that welcomes and gladly embraces people of all faiths, races, beliefs, and preferences. Like many in your great city, I am appalled at the Task Force's assessment that we are a "racist city." There is nothing further from the truth. We welcome all, and we embrace anyone and everyone who chooses to come to this city.

I ask that you end the Task Force at your meeting today. Please do not drag this on any longer than it has already been dragged. Please do not buy into the suggestion that we need a permanent Oversight Committee. That is a waste of time and money, and it will serve no practical purpose.

We are a community of loving adults and children who, for the most part, see each individual as a gift whether from God, or from whatever other source anyone chooses to believe in. We don't need Big Brothers looking over our shoulders imposing their personal agendas on us, and trying to force to believe that we are evil and that the only time there is any good in us is when we believe in and follow their dictates. Please only consider the Factual History Report about 1920's Bruce Family, plaque and art piece. Don't subject us to the ongoing idiocy any longer.

Thank you, and respectfully submitted.

Darryl Nyznyk

Martha Alvarez

From: Ellen Kubo <ellenkubo@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 2:40 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

I find that the recent unsigned advertisement in the Beach Reporter insisting that the City Council should reject all the Bruce Beach Task Force reports and disband the Task Force is an unnerving ad as it is clearly an affirmation of the city's long term underlying racism by it's avid denial. By insisting on the disbanding of the Task Force, along with their low key recommendations, the unnamed people behind the advertisement clearly want to continue to keep the Bruce's Beach issues in the past. Anyone who has looked at the details of the title reports on certain Manhattan Beach residential properties can see sale restrictions based on race, which, while currently illegal to enforce, are still evidence of the city's past. Isn't the only way to deal with the future is to learn from the past? I would urge that the very minimum the City Council should allow the Bruce's Beach Task Force to continue their work with the hope that, at the very least, this past injustice will be addressed.

Ellen Kubo
2404 John Street
Manhattan Beach, CA

Martha Alvarez

From: Boris Droutman <bdroutman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 2:38 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] a resident's comments for March 16, 2021 meeting

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City Council,

I'd like to provide just a few quick comments for item #12 on tonight's meeting agenda.

- I think it's time to thank all members of Bruce's Beach Task Force for their work, chose the art and copy for the plaque and then dismantle that force,
 - Don't give BBFT permanent status
- I think the overwhelming majority of MB residence has nothing to do with what happened here 100 years ago and def. nothing to apologize for.
 - We can, and we definitely should acknowledge the wrongs of the past, but I'd say absolutely NO to any apology
- I also very strongly oppose the creation (in any shape or form) of a "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission" either now or in the future. I think it's absolutely unnecessary, is nothing but the woke-signaling, and can potentially lead to disastrous results in completely devastating and reshaping our community.

We are Jewish immigrants from Ukraine, live in MB for 17 years, and love every single moment of it.

Our kids grew up here.

I can't say enough about the goodness and kindness of the community

Diversity and Inclusion can't be mandated by decree, it comes from the human hearts

Let's keep MB MB,

Thanks for listening!

--

Best Regards
Boris and Vita Droutman

Martha Alvarez

From: bev <bevgiw2@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 2:31 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] bruce's beach suggestion: take peck down a bushel or two. change peck ave and peck park to bruce ave and bruce park. do the right thing.

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

I think Manhattan Beach, quietly and firmly, can use the unsettling Bruce's Beach situation as an opportunity to address both the past and our present. Quietly and without fanfare: remove and replace a daily reminder of much of the issue, a 1920s, hundred-year past racist Mayor George Peck that has continued to unsettle and divide so deeply and for so long. Put Peck to rest.

Replace Mayor George Peck's 'daily presence' of Peck Avenue and Peck Park with Bruce Avenue and Bruce Park, much like the Confederate statuary and flags are being taken down in Washington/DC and elsewhere. Keep his mention in a museum or library - and history books. Scrub the city clean. Do the right thing.

History won't be rewritten here this week with you. But it will be strongly addressed. By those who care. We, the people.

The every day pain and injustice of Bruce's Beach forced on even a handful of those who still feel it as they drive the streets of our city is not over unless we truly acknowledge it. Taking Peck down a bushel won't hurt him or his family any more. But it will educate and help us all. And we can use it to grow, not divide, when driving along Bruce Avenue every day... and enjoying a park, no longer named for a city leader who hurt a race of people because he could. Wow.

Thank you,

Bev Morse
former member, Bruce's Beach Committee, fifteen years ago
formerly 918 first st and 910 first street, 305 anderson street, etc -

bev-giiw
get it in writhing!

Martha Alvarez

From: pam mckniff <pammckniff@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 2:27 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hello -

I am contacting you to share my support for the work being done by the Bruce's Beach Task Force. Whether or not Manhattan Beach can be considered a racist community now - isn't the issue. Acknowledging a harmful action from our past and considering amends strike me as an entirely civic thing to do. I'm sorry to see the anonymous efforts by some community members to paint this as anything different.

Sincerely,
Pam McKniff

Martha Alvarez

From: Maureen Leral-Denitz <modenitz@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 2:16 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's beach task force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

Hope you all are well. I oppose the BB task force continuation beyond tonight and against any formation of a DEI commission moving forward. What was done a century ago to the Bruce family and others was wrong and we've made great strides against racism through the following years. I believe a plaque and artwork along with gathering factual history is enough. Four months is a long time and hopefully those items have been completed. If not, perhaps we can form an Art committee to complete the items.

Offering an acknowledgment instead of an apology would be better since we had nothing to do with this racism a century ago.

I believe our town has suffered enough media attention because of the false narrative that has been perpetuated by outside political groups. I hope we can get back to some normalcy of pre 2020.

Thank you for reading

Appreciate all you are doing

Best

Mo Denitz

Martha Alvarez

From: Secily Anderson <secilymusic@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 2:14 PM
To: City Manager
Cc: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] re: Bruce's Beach Task Force ad

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

I'm writing as a very concerned citizen re: the two page ad in the latest issue of The Beach Reporter. As a participant in the last Bruce's Beach Task Force I was appalled at "Daryl's" comments and subsequently shocked that person was quoted in the article in the Beach Reporter. That two page ad does NOT speak for the majority and it's disgraceful. The task force should continue in their efforts of restorative justice. The group who purchased the ad are using disingenuous tactics to try to erase the fact that MB was and continues to hold damaging racist ideas. These ideas directly affect the community and are not representative of the true nature of the majority. Please do not be swayed by these attempts at white supremacy. The editorial silence is deafening and we will all be watching the city council meeting very carefully tonight.

~Secily Anderson

Sent from my iPhone

Martha Alvarez

From: Mary McRae <marycmrae@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 2:14 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] YES to the Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear MB City Council Members,

I would like to echo the sentiments of our fellow neighbor, Madeline Kaplan, shared in her letter to you dated March 2, 2021, in support of Bruce's Beach Task Force. I cannot fathom how anyone could object to our city's attempt to study and address current or past inequitable treatment of individuals, whether overt/direct/systematic or otherwise. The effects of racial discrimination cannot and never will be remedied by a "one and done" solution.

Clearly, our residents need continuing education on how to be anti-racist. If ever there was a community lacking accountability or doubted to be inclusive, opening the local Beach Reporter dated March 11, 2021 was case-in-point, revealing precisely the undercurrent of ignorance pervading what I truly hope is small group of our neighbors. The ridiculous full-page excuses of *We didn't do it, It's not our fault, We're not racist...* was a total embarrassment. How dare that be an attempt to proclaim that "Color Should Never Divide Us!".

I am white, and I have no authority to speak as someone who has directly suffered from racial discrimination as such. But for one to exist in a bubble of undeserved self-entitlement based on their race, religion, sex, or gender, unaware of those who don't is beyond privileged - it's acceptance and apathy, complacency and compliance.

We ALL need ongoing education, whether uncomfortable or not, to progress as humans, strengthen our relationships, and mend our differences for the cumulative success of our citizens, visitors, businesses, children, schools and the beautiful environment we are so lucky to enjoy. Such success should inure to the benefit of all of us.

We have to start from a place of accountability - establishing (and supporting) Bruce's Beach Task Force is just one step forward in the long, necessary journey ahead.

Thank you,
Mary McRae

Sent from my iPad

Martha Alvarez

From: CARL CORZAN <ccorzan@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 1:54 PM
To: Joe Franklin
Cc: List - City Council; June Manifold-Corzan; CARL CORZAN
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 3/16/2020 City Council Meeting regarding Partisan Task Force Meeting

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hello Joe

I just received a notice of a City Council meeting 3/16/2020, and COVID-19 will prohibit me from attending. But what is this all about? Who are these persons? Can and have they defined "institutional racism"? It would appear that they are a group who can't afford the rent and property purchase in our City. Who feel they are entitled for whatever reason to lower property values in the City of Manhattan Beach.

I am a 50 year resident of Manhattan Beach and have never been so insulted by anyone calling me or my City racist.

We do not need a "permanent Social Justice Oversight Committee". Our City government has worked fine for over 50 plus years supporting all people. We speak up for our constitutional rights.

End the Task Force (what ever it purports to be) at the 3/16 meeting.

Joe, forward this statement to all Council Members. Thanking you in advance

Carl and June Corzan
3808 The Strand
MB

Sent from my iPad

Martha Alvarez

From: Pat Reynolds <pr316@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 1:45 PM
To: List - City Council; City Manager
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I approve of the Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

The Bruce's Beach Task Force is necessary and doing a good job.

I agree with an apology which includes the factual history of what occurred during the eminent domain proceeding against the Bruce Family. We can all agree that, although legal, the courts were complicit in Red Lining and our town was in cahoots with the KKK. An apology would acknowledge that we are disagree with what our city did.

That advertisement in the Beach Reporter makes it seem that nothing has changed here! I hope that they represent a minority of MB. If you do not stand up to these bullies, our town will look as if horrible people live here. If this ad is not denounced tonight, the council will seem to be endorsing it.

Pat Reynolds
Manhattan Beach

Martha Alvarez

From: Biondi, Jim <jbiondi@ngkf.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 1:42 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Contrary to the minority suspicion our city is not guilty of institutional racism. This special interest partisan group use this unfounded narrative to condemn our residents as racists. Nothing can be further from reality. Where is the proof of such claims? There is no need for a permanent Social Justice Oversight Committee which will create problems in order to justify a self-serving agenda. My wife and I have been a long-time residents of Manhattan Beach and would not be so if we thought our City was a community of unfairness and exclusion.

James F. Biondi, SIOR

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Martha Alvarez

From: BOB DAVIS <rcd47@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 1:40 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to Bruce's Beach committee

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

As a long term resuscitate of our lovely Manhattan Beach I urge you in the strongest possible terms to reject the recommendation of the Bruce Beach Committee. In particular the city should not memorialize the committee by making it a permanent fixture of the government.

Robert Davis

Martha Alvarez

From: wvc.purcell@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 1:34 PM
To: List - City Council; Richard Montgomery; Hildy Stern; Suzanne Hadley; Joe Franklin; Steve Napolitano
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

All,

I am in support of the work that the Task Force is completing. I am also in support of the City of Manhattan Beach extending an apology for the egregious taking of property from the Bruce family. An apology is recognition that our City and the then residents of it, made a decision based upon racist beliefs fairly widespread at the time. And justified it with a lie about needing the property for purposes the City had no intention of pursuing at the time. While none of us were involved in the decision, we, the current residents, have an opportunity to acknowledge that a wrong was perpetrated against the family in the name of the City, and we don't agree with what was done. The apology would be a public way to confirm that we, as a City and its residents, will not condone racism of any sort in our community.

I have seen far too many comments on NextDoor that do not support the Task Force because the individual writers are not racist, or weren't responsible for the decision, or weren't residents when the properties were taken. None of those comments are relevant. I give you a real life example:

In 1939, as a child my father-in-law and his parents escaped Poland after Kristallnacht. His parents had been owners of a department store, longtime residents in their town and active members of their business community. It didn't matter; they had to sell the business and inventory at a steep discount and were limited to leaving the country with a single crate containing, quite literally, all their worldly belongings. After the United States and Great Britain rejected their requests for asylum, they were able to sail to Shanghai. After the war, they arrived in the US and became naturalized citizens. Even though they were no longer in Germany, and were US citizens, Germany paid all three of them reparations. My father-in-law continued to receive reparations until his death, January 20, 2017.

The payments weren't significant amounts but they communicated to the Holocaust survivors that Germany acknowledged its responsibility and role in trying to destroy their lives. Keep in mind, the reparation program wasn't developed and administered by the Nazis who had been responsible for the atrocities in the first place. These reparations were administered by a new government body and by individuals within it who had not perpetrated the atrocities. However, they knew the right thing to do was to publicly acknowledge the country's involvement in the Holocaust was wrong, and amends had to be made.

Please don't misread this example as a request for reparations – I am trying to make it clear that public acknowledgement of a wrong, an apology, is necessary and there is historical precedent. Here in the US, it took us until 1988 to acknowledge that the internment of US residents and citizens of Japanese ancestry was wrong, but we did it. I think, as a City, it's important that we follow these example and do the right thing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Wendy Purcell

Martha Alvarez

From: Dency Nelson <outlook_5A693F1EB520CFD9@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 1:34 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Regarding the Bruce's Beach Task Force and Pertinent Submitted Resolutions

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Honorable Mayor & Councilmembers:

As a 40-year resident and homeowner here in the Beach Cities, I do believe that systemic racism has existed and, based on reading some recent letters and ads appearing in local papers, continues to exist here in our cities. With that in mind, I ask that stronger language than what is in the "Alternate Resolution of Apology" that has been submitted by Councilman Napolitano is required, and hope that instead the edited version of that Resolution that has been submitted by Councilmember Stern be considered. In addition to the stronger apology, I also believe that it is essential that the Bruce's Beach Task Force continues its work, because there is still work to be done, and again I come to that conclusion based on both the tone and content of way too many disturbing letters to you and to our local papers. The additional study and attention to what I truly believe is a still-not-fully-examined crisis here and throughout our nation can only bring awareness and better understanding and healing, and not divisiveness as has been suggested.

Sincerely,

Dency Nelson
2415 Silverstrand Avenue
Hermosa Beach
DLN52@verizon.net

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Martha Alvarez

From: BIM BO <tsabuer@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 1:18 PM
To: Suzanne Hadley; Hildy Stern; Steve Napolitano; Richard Montgomery; Joe Franklin
Cc: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Manhattan Beach City Council Members:

I respectfully request that our City Council vote to dissolve the Bruce Beach Task Force (BBTF) immediately for the following reasons:

As a concerned resident of Manhattan Beach, I finally feel compelled to write each of you with respect to the recent movement revolving around the property at former: Beachfront Park; Bayview Terrace Park; Parque Culiacan (named after a sister city in Mexico) and now Bruce Park. The formation of a Bruce Beach Task Force (BBTF) for decisions made by the past founding members of our community is ludicrous. The complete facts are finally coming out that not only did this eminent domain decision affect the Bruce family; but, it included several other families of multi ethnic, racial and religious backgrounds – including a few ‘white’ folks. All property owners were given the opportunity to relocate within the Manhattan Beach borders or receive monetary compensation. The Bruce family elected not to stay.

Were the families involved in the Santa Fe Railroad property acquisition that has evolved into our Veterans parkway properly compensated? Or how did our not-so-past city council treat the family of the three-acre Metlox site?

When an entire neighborhood between Sepulveda and Vista del Mar was razed to make way for the Los Angeles Airport - how many of those property owners may have been considered non “fill-in-the-category”? Shouldn’t someone form a task force forcing Westchester to make amends?

If you are not aware, it was not uncommon that many property Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions (CC&Rs) - as well as - private clubs, golf courses, etc of the past excluded various persons from different ethnic and religious backgrounds. If you were fortunate to have inherited a family estate maybe you should take a look at its’ CC&Rs. All communities with past discriminatory CC&Rs should be forced to make restitution – don’t you agree?

I can go on how my past family members were persecuted throughout history (even in their ‘home’ country); but, that does not reflect where America is as a nation today. At what point do fellow American citizens, and residents of Manhattan Beach, say enough is enough.

For-the-record, before electing to make Manhattan Beach our ‘hometown’ for over forty years ago, I must admit I wanted to live on the Palos Verdes peninsula but could not because it was extremely more expensive than here! By comparison Manhattan Beach was affordable; full of blue collar workers - no different then many of its neighboring south-bay cities.

In bringing my rant to a close, again, I respectfully request that our City Council vote to dissolve the Bruce Beach Task Force (BBTF) immediately as being self-serving & extremely divisive. Lastly, I decline to apologize for the indiscretions my great-great-great grandparent or for behaviors of past Manhattan Beach government officials; and, as my elected official request you decline to apologize on my behalf or that of a silent majority of the Manhattan Beach citizenry – just because you may be embarrassed.

Yours truly
KC Meislin

Martha Alvarez

From: Claire Schoch <claireschoch8@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 1:17 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on Bruce Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hello,

I am writing to you to submit my comment regarding the Bruce Beach Task Force and expansion of its mission. Given the nature of the history of Bruce's Beach and the incredible work that still needs to be done to reflect, respond and redress, I would like to see the city of Manhattan Beach support the expansion of the task force and its duties.

I also support the apology and redress actions outlined in the Appendix and would like to see them carried out in a timely fashion to hold our community accountable for their actions and promote a more transparent dialogue around past racist events, as well as create space and equity for diverse voices in our community.

Thank you for your time.
Claire

Martha Alvarez

From: bob.ambrose@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 1:17 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The 3/16/2021 City Council Meeting

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hi City Council,

As I will demand tonight when speaking on Zoom, the Manhattan Beach Task Force must be terminated immediately.

If you are going to take any action for what some believe happened a century ago, only accept the plaque, art piece and an accurate history for discussion and nothing else. What was presented is not an accurate history.

As I voted for some of you in the City Council, this matter is a local issue and should be decided by residents who pay taxes and vote.

Dr. Robert Ambrose
1200 3rd St
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Martha Alvarez

From: Ryan Cowles <rdcowles@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 1:12 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Support of Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

City Council Members,

What was done generations ago to the Bruce family was unconscionable and permanently altered the face of the South Bay, leading to the increasingly homogeneous, insular, and unwelcoming communities we have today. The race and diversity issues we face as a community are hard and uncomfortable, but they are also important, necessary, and unavoidable. The Bruce's Beach Task Force is a necessary first step in joining the majority of America in confronting our lingering racial scars, and disbanding it now without serious consideration of any of its recommendations would be a huge mistake.

Sincerely,
Ryan Cowles

Martha Alvarez

From: Joe Fields <joefields412@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 1:05 PM
To: City Manager; List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Task Force Presentation

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

An apology from the city of Manhattan Beach is paramount to attaining peace with our past and to beginning a positive relationship with our neighbors.

This task force is just the beginning to creating a more inclusive and cohesive community of which can be proud.

I urge you not to bow to the pressures of those misguided individuals who created that reprehensible 2 page ad as in this week's Beach Reporter.

I am happy with Bruce's Beach Task Force and the leadership of Hildy Stern and Steve Napolitano.

Joseph Fields
Manhattan Beach

Martha Alvarez

From: Maggie Gilbert <56oreo@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 1:00 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote Yes for Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hello,

I'd like to request member's of the city council to vote yes for the Bruce's Beach Task Force's Recommendation of Apology to the Bruce Family.

Best,

Maggie G

Martha Alvarez

From: Rosalie <rosaliece@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 1:00 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BB

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

The properties « purchased » through eminent domain was never used commercially by the city of MB or the County of LA. It's a public park and a county facility.

Metlox area was purchased by the city of MB and has provided income for the city, if I'm not mistaken. The city bought it to make \$.

All the BB properties were not purchased a century ago in order for MB to gain financially.

Rosalie E. Olson

Martha Alvarez

From: melina chao <melinachao@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 12:58 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

City Council,

Disband Bruce's Beach Task Force immediately. Their work is done. BBTF was originally tasked with researching history, recommending artwork and plaque. Nothing else. No to any form of apology. Current Manhattan Beach residents are not responsible for the acts of residents 100 years ago. No to DEIC. We do not need this intrusive level of "oversight" to permeate our police department and schools. Instead of focusing on racial differences, emphasize cohesive values such as respect and love.

Sent from my iPhone

Martha Alvarez

From: patriciasievers@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 12:44 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BBTF: PRECISION OF SPEECH

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Council Members

This Bruce Beach Task Force saga is wrought with accusations and denials of accusations, with rewording, clarification and political maneuvering. This has been from the Task Force members, the Task Force Council member chairs, and all over social media. The report itself feels full of hatred and contempt for the residents of this community. It slickly suggests that while we are not racist, we need a DEIC to police and eradicate the racism that we don't have. The Task Force has even consulted with people who have publicly condemned us as having racism in our DNA. Hmm? Who is racist?

The citizens of Manhattan Beach have their eye on you - the council - as apparently now does the rest of the nation. We elected you to be honest and forthright representatives of we the people that elected you, that you would have our best interests in mind - not exterior influences and goals. We need you council members to stop with this nonsense that is dividing and destroying *our* community.

As you navigate through this political mine field, here is my suggestion (you legal folks - you lawyers - know this and you should appreciate it):

PRECISION of SPEECH

When Steve says, "the Apology Letter is not a confession or admission of guilt," then it is *not* an apology letter. "Apology" is an incorrect term.

When Steve's parents raised him to say that he was sorry when he did something wrong and that it's never too late to say you're sorry - then that is correct to call it an apology. But when you did not commit an offense, then the correct response is to feel compassion and acknowledge the party's loss or injury. If you wanted to formalize it, it would be an Acknowledgement Letter.

To not make this distinction opens the door to erroneous interpretation. Lawyers know that. And the consequences can be dangerous, especially in this time where there is virtually no grace given and legal claims and cancel culture abound on mere words.

Interestingly, in common language the term apology is defined by Webster as an admission of error or discourtesy accompanied by an expression of regret. Dictionary.com defines apology as a written or spoken expression of one's regret, remorse, or sorrow for having insulted, failed, injured, or wronged another.

From a legal standpoint, an apology letter is a strategy to reduce the consequence of wrongdoing. Here it is defined at legalmatch.com:

Apology law is a branch of law that allows persons to issue apologies as a partial remedy for wrongdoing, violations, or legal liability.

Let's be precise and correctly label it an Acknowledgement Letter. NONE of us were there generations ago to be involved in any wrongdoing. But we can sure feel compassion! And we do! We can meditate and reflect on how different it was 100 years ago at a time when the country was stepping out of slavery. The Bruce's themselves were born BEFORE the Emancipation Proclamation was even signed by President Lincoln. Race attitudes reflected fear, mistrust and uncertainty. We can see that in the historical documents. While we can see the acts of injustice, we can also see these early events in context as the civil rights movement seeded, took shape, and evolved. Let's **acknowledge** that and let this divisive thing settle down.

Please reign this in. It is destroying the community. Correct the title of the letter to Acknowledgement Letter. Update the plaque and memorial. Disband the Task Force that is so seemingly out of touch with its neighbors and our community. Restore peace.

Patricia Sievers Ambrose, DAOM
Shen Ming Health Cultivation Center
310-261-4265

Martha Alvarez

From: Traudl <strudell200@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 12:42 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] To City Council Manhattan Beach,

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

The letter written by Russ Lesser in the latest Beach Reporter March 11th says it all! Nothing to ad!

I am not surprised about councilwoman Stern's "Racial Equity and Social Justice" stand. But it is quite disappointing and upsetting that councilman Napolitano's would agree to all this !!

Traudl Weber

Martha Alvarez

From: Roberta Manshel <bert.manshel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 12:41 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support of Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Council Members,

We are writing because we recently learned and are very surprised that there is resistance to the city issuing an apology and continuing the work of the task force regarding Bruce's Beach. Given the events of the past it seems like continuing the task force's efforts is the least the city can do.

While there appear to be attempts to obfuscate the issue, it seems clear that the actions at issue roughly a century ago were motivated by racial bias, as was common in that era. It strikes us as a basic tenet that when a community does something wrong, it should be willing to acknowledge and apologize for it. Issuing an apology would not mean that the city or its citizens are racist; indeed, in our view it would signify the opposite. We therefore urge the council to adopt the resolution and continue the good work of the task force.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Jay Henneberry and Roberta Manshel
Manhattan Beach Residents

Martha Alvarez

From: Bruce Kuch <bpkuch@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 12:36 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's "Beach"

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Honorable City Council Members:

Hold your ground. We are not racist, and we do not appreciate being accused of racism.

There are a few who going around with a chip on their shoulder, spreading negativity throughout our neighborhood, and looking for something that doesn't belong to them. They seem to have the spotlight now, but they do not speak for the vast majority.

We embrace diversity. For without it, there is no freedom.

Be patient, but firm, in these difficult times.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce Kuch, City Planning Commission 1999-2005 Pamela Kuch, retired MBUSD teacher Manhattan Beach Residents since 1987

Martha Alvarez

From: Maria Reese <reesefam@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 12:29 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hi!

Please do not disassemble the subject task force.

Manhattan Beach is such a special place with so much to give, we have an opportunity to address & try to remedy some pain in our history and the task force can help us work towards this.

I appreciate all you do,

Maria Reese
1730 Voorhees Ave, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Martha Alvarez

From: Lida Sandera <lidasbeach@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 12:13 PM
To: List - City Council
Cc: Bruce Moe; qbarow@citymb.info; Derrick Abell
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Manhattan Beach is NOT racist city !!

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hello City council and city officials,
as I live in Manhattan Beach since 1974, I know that our city is very friendly ,and absolutely NOT racist, to all people of all colors and ethnicities. .
I cant say same about politics.
In 1968 I did escaped from Communist Czechoslovakia , leaving my family and everything for FREEDOM in America.
Finally in 1970 I legaly immigrated to America for freedom .
In last 2 elections I did vote for president Trump as I could see that the other side is turning socialistic.
Posting Trump signed by my home I received and still receiving horrible letters, my signed were quickly stolen and till today bags with dog poops are thrown to my yard or even to my second floor balcony.
from this I know that liberals are racist and they are very vocal !
No there is no racism on color of people or ethnicity in Manhattan Beach.
It is just political and jealousy !

Lida Sandera
MB resident

Martha Alvarez

From: William Peters <billypete3@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 12:11 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] meeting 3/16/2021

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

1. end the task force at the 3/16 meeting
2. no permanent oversight committee
3. only consider a factual history report about 1920 bruce family, pIAQUE AND ART PIECE
4. REJECT THE apology letter and all other recommendations

we are not a racist city

Martha Alvarez

From: sharon young <sharonyoung264@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 12:02 PM
To: List - City Council; City Manager
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Agree with the Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Please include an apology when you approve the Task Force's recommendations. If we don't apologize, it is tantamount to admitting we are a racist community.

After hearing many stories from victims of racial profiling and aggression from residents, I do believe we need to keep the Bruce's Beach Task Force for awhile.

Please do not listen to the awful people who placed the ad in The Beach Reporter. They are the minority.

Sharon Young
Manhattan Beach Resident

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

Martha Alvarez

From: ERIC GRAY <egray123@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 12:01 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City Council,

I strongly disagree with the conclusions of the Bruce's Beach Task Force. The BBTF should not be a permanent oversight body for the city. I think the conclusions that residents sign an apology letter confessing to racial profiling racism and discrimination against black people is false.

I would like the task force disbanded tonight as I disagree with their recommendations.

Eric Gray
725 31st Street
Manhattan Beach, CA. 90266

Martha Alvarez

From: Ellie Heffernan <esh7@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 11:48 AM
To: Steve Napolitano; Suzanne Hadley; Richard Montgomery; Joe Franklin
Cc: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] COUNCIL MEETING 3/16/21 (daughter- Nora's bday-can not attend)

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Steve,

We know you have a tedious job in meeting our citizens' goodwill. And everyone wants you to vote for their agenda.

You've been in City Council **a long time** representing MB Residents elected for **TODAY's challenges**.

Well, that's what **our forefathers did 100 years ago**. MET THE CHALLENGE. We must **STOP digging up dead** issues and **START**

keeping our city safe from **WARMONGERS** that want division, incite hatred for one another due to skin color, and advocate

co-operation with city elections and the volunteers manning the polls (pointing a finger at one of YOU, not Steve),

This city has thrived because of the great choices we've made in: city government, schools, churches, parks, malls, beaches, etc

In our 60+ years living in MB, we've never seen or heard of racial bias anywhere in our coastal communities. We volunteered for many things

with our five children and kept abreast of the latest in our city, we did our **civic duty**, we're proud our children were instilled with that mindset.

Anyone who thinks MB needs a snitches patrol like the DEIC and BBTF in our city should be institutionalized.

We pledge we have never heard a racial slur in MB, we're better than that. Cowards always accuse without facts.

SOMEONE IN THIS MEETING PLEASE STAND UP AND DEFINE RACISM.

AND THEN LET US STAND UP AND SALUTE OUR AMERICAN FLAG AND PLEDGE LOCALITY TO OUR CITY AND COUNTRY

THANKING GOD WE LIVE HERE.

If someone would read our statement at the meeting it would be appreciated.

Ellie Heffernan

with our FIVE children

-----Original Message-----

From: Steve Napolitano <snapolitano@citymb.info>
To: Ellie Heffernan <esh7@verizon.net>
Sent: Sun, Mar 14, 2021 11:00 pm
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] WE THE TAXPAYERS/ the 100 year history

Thanks for your input, appreciated...

Steve Napolitano
Councilmember
City of Manhattan Beach

From: Ellie Heffernan <esh7@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 1:16 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] WE THE TAXPAYERS/ the 100 year history

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Council members

We the taxpayers of MB do not want our hard earned dollars going to endeavors of the past. What was then fair or unfair dealings within the real estate market and legal proceedings have been finalized in the US Courts. It is not our responsibility to resurrect the dead issues and give it present day value. We have legal limits on such things, don't undermine them.

If a plaque is awarded it should be on the original lots owned by the Bruces and dedicated by the LA County with the approval of MB Citizens (keep the council out of it) No Art Structure needed, unless it is part of the plague.

There's more to life in MB this issue belongs in the Archives. GET OUT IN THE SUN EVERYBODY AND HUG SOMEONE.

A MB TAXPAYER--MAKE THEM COUNT

Martha Alvarez

From: Brenda O'Leary <brendajoleary@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 11:41 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Kudos to the task force for trying to improve inclusion in our community. While I don't believe it's correct to say Manhattan Beach is a "racist community," I do believe racism exists here, especially when you hear from current Black residents and consider events that have occurred recently. I hope the task force will continue to be a positive force in addressing this and working toward change. Manhattan Beach is better than this and our kids deserve more. I also hope the views of the small but loud group in our community who continually latch on to negative issues and promote them through social media (we all know who they are) don't impact your response to this issue.

Cheers,

Brenda O'Leary

Martha Alvarez

From: Christine Ortiz <ortizfive@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 11:24 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Task Force needs to be defunded

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City Council Members:

In these difficult times, we all need to be aware of others, their voices, their feelings and their stories. What we don't need is to apologize for events that occurred decades before most of us were even alive. My name is Christine Ortiz and I am a 30+ resident of our great city. I interviewed for the Bruce Beach Task Force and was not chosen, which I think shows that I want to be part of the solution.

I'm writing to you today to let you know that I am not going to accept the Task Force's conclusion that we are a racist city. It is simply UNTRUE. I will not sit back and let the task force demand that "we" apologize for the past wrongs of our city. I was under the impression when I applied to be on the task force that the job of the TF members was a fact finding mission and to report back with The Facts. They have gone way beyond their scope of work into an area that is highly subjective and political. This should not be politicized, which I know is nearly impossible these days, as everything seems to end up that way. However, the suggestions of the TF are too over-reaching and not what I believe the majority of our citizens want to see implemented.

It is my belief that the confidence in the TF is jeopardized and that they need to be dismantled. By allowing the TF continue to exist will only further the divide. Unfortunately, I believe it's too late for them to go back and do what they were originally tasked with doing. I realize this action will open up a new can of worms, but I believe it can be done tactfully and without bias. Their time is up. Then, we as a city, go back to the drawing board. We want to get this right, once & for all. Then we can return to what this city really is: a city of inclusion, a city of fairness and community.

Thank you for your service,
Christine Ortiz

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

Martha Alvarez

From: Edward Gajdicar <edward.gajdicar@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 11:21 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Looks like Hildy getting worried: This is her group

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

BRUCE'S BEACH UPDATE:

NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ABOUT BRUCE'S BEACH: [HERE](#)

g before Council for consideration.

and extreme opposition to continuing the task force. Some of those emails have been predictable and ignorant at best...**They have re**

ss systemic racism, institutionalized racism and to encourage actively being anti-racist. These are uncomfortable issues and convers



SAVE THE DATE!!

GEN BLUE PF GENERAL MEETING

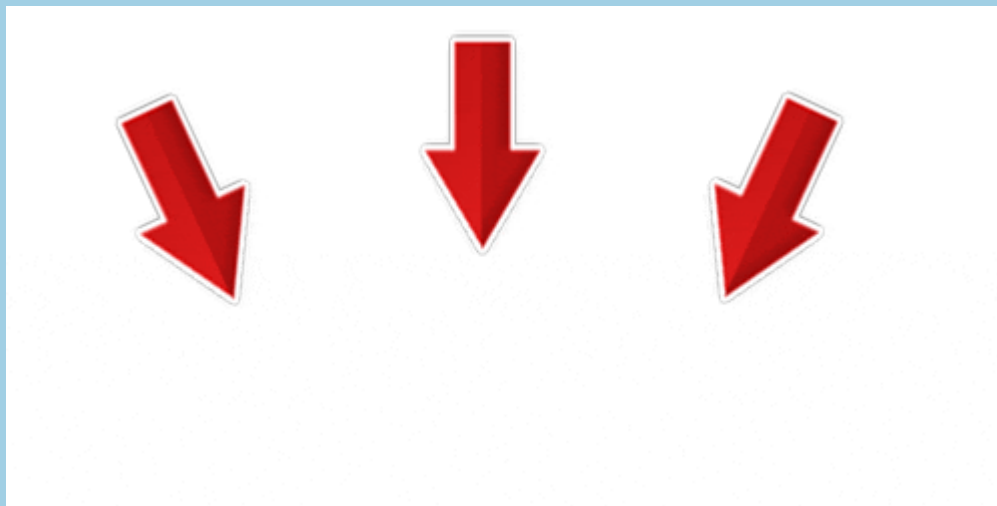
April 15TH AT ON ZOOM

We are very pleased to have GUEST SPEAKER

TED LIEU!

of Representatives. Ted is serving in his third term in Congress and currently sits on the House Judiciary Committee and t
serve as a Co-Chair of the Democratic Policy and Communications
Committee.

Up-to-date information on Ted's work in Congress, you can follow @RepTedLieu on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.



**Sign up [here](#) for
link and to send in your questions in advance!**

Email us at genbluepf@gmail.com if you any questions

Democracy Docket

Five Democracy Reform Essentials

By Marc Elias

happening for four years, we would enter a new America on January 20, 2021 at 12:01 PM. We thought our democracy was

Resistance to Trump was not futile, but it was not enough.

still dark—an epidemic is raging and the assault on democracy continues. Although the man left the White House, Trumpism
until rooted out, will continue to do to our nation and its institutions and values is structural and will not be easily repaired.

mission for the next four years must be to strengthen our democratic institutions and voting laws. We need a new Democracy

Here are five needed reforms to start:

ts in our system that Trump and his allies exploited. This includes replacing the current system of multiple canvasses and
ng. Reform efforts must also include changes to post-election recount and contest provisions to disincentivize frivolous at

er-centric. The test for voting laws, rules, and practices should be whether they improve voting access and participation, not
tainty. That means not allowing claims of unspecified “fraud” to be used as an excuse to disenfranchise voters. We don’t base
unsubstantiated fears of harm, and we should not do so with voting.

ments for ballots to be counted. Pennsylvania’s law that rejects so-called “naked ballots” is silly and serves no purpose. So
Rejecting ballots that are cast by lawful voters in the wrong precinct is similarly indefensible. Absent proof of actual fraud

ere administered. Counties should be required to publish the average and longest wait times at every polling location they o
a administration in the future and provide valuable insight into which election administrators are disenfranchising voters. W
a phenomenon most often observed in heavily minority areas, are addressed and rectified.

h online any change to an election law, rule, policy, or practice that may negatively impact voters 30 days before it can take
voter should wake up anywhere and face a new barrier to voting that they did not know would take effect.

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Martha Alvarez

From: Laura Kiely <laurakiely@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 11:12 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City Council Members,
I'm dismayed by the vitriol of some community members over the Bruce's Beach task force.

I hope Council will rise above some of the defensiveness, misinformation and misunderstanding that too many Manhattan Beach community members have expressed in regard to the Task Force's efforts to expose truth, address injustices, and create a community that is willing to become anti-racist. These are GOOD goals, not divisive.

Those seeking to avoid truth are sowing division, and attempting to lay the blame with the Task Force.

Sometimes people react with anger and fear when confronted with uncomfortable truths; we cannot abandon good and decent goals to becoming a better community because the process is uncomfortable.

I implore Council to:

1. Issue a clear and strong apology for the racist motivations that resulted in imminent domain proceedings against the Bruce family.
2. Recognize and apologize for the history of racist actions and decisions perpetrated and condoned by Manhattan Beach officials.
3. Allow the Bruce's Beach Task Force to continue until the TF is able to complete its work.

The truth can often be ugly, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't confront it, make amends, and strive not to repeat it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Laura Kiely
Manhattan Beach resident since 1994
310 503-6245

Sent from my iPhone

Martha Alvarez

From: Maureen Leral-Denitz <modenitz@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 11:01 AM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No apology. No continuation of task force

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As a property owner in MB for the last 30 plus years, raising two wonderful daughters and knowing you all personally, I think we can all agree Manhattan Beach is not a racist city. From my perspective, our Country is not systemically racist either and sometimes we forget how far we've come. We acknowledge with sadness that the taking away of properties including the Bruce's by condemnation by the council, a century ago, was very wrong and abhorrent. With that being said, I do not believe an apology is warranted, we current residents had nothing to do with that. Though reading and watching the news one would think it's still going on in our city today. It's sensationalism and a lie by the media. Our city had a Black mayor/city council member elected by a majority of residents a few years back and we currently have an Afro American police chief who's been employed by the MBPD for 25 plus yrs. Sounds like our town is pretty inclusive but you won't hear that in the media. Walking downtown we see many people of all different races dining, shopping and going to the beach and again looks pretty inclusive but you won't see that on TV.

My husband ran our Club Volleyball Organization (5 different club teams) and never once did we receive a complaint from any of our players or parents regarding racism by a competing team or within our club. We had players of all races and creeds from the Southbay. One of our AA players had a conversation with my husband recently and said she never experienced racism in MB growing up This has been our experience.

On another note. I'm puzzled why our council members created a subcommittee for apology before the history was completed, the excuse that it was done concurrently does not make sense. Why was the task force allowed to expand their work and use up the valuable 4 months on other items? Is the plaque, artwork and gathering of history done? We implore you, City council, to not kick the can down the road during this meeting in hopes this will go away because it won't. We must end the task force this evening. We do not need a DEIC committee to oversee our town to educate us in the way they want us to talk, think and live. We should have the individual freedoms to educate ourselves and not have a group telling us what's acceptable by them. I hope the council will vote No on Appendix 5 tonight and end the BBTF going forward. They had 4 months to complete their 3 projects. That's long enough. We've suffered enough media scrutiny to last a lifetime. Thankyou,

Best

Maureen Denitz

Martha Alvarez

From: Nicholas de la Espriella <n.dela@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 10:55 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Manhattan Beach resident - I want this Bruce's Beach task force ended.

The election is over, so you can stop playing partisan games with your uneducated self-loathing voters.

Identity politics are extremely divisive.

I will be letting everyone who will let me finish a sentence know about this and it's insanity.

Make this insane task force stop. Kill It. We don't need this garbage in Manhattan Beach.

- Nick

Martha Alvarez

From: CityOfManhattanBeach@citymb.info on behalf of City of Manhattan Beach
<CityOfManhattanBeach@citymb.info>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 10:50 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce Beach

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Message submitted from the <City of Manhattan Beach> website.

Site Visitor Name: Margaret Jane Franklin
Site Visitor Email: janehomemail@gmail.com

Please use restraint when considering this topic. In the past 100 years American have done many things that in hind sight may seem unfair. These need to be acknowledged and we need to do better, but they do not need to be monetized. We need to move forward.



CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH

CITY ENOTIFICATION

(310) 802-5000
CityofManhattanBeach@citymb.info

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH 1400 Highland Avenue Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
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Martha Alvarez

From: Ellen Harrington <ellen.harrington7@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 10:49 AM
To: List - City Council; Suzanne Hadley; Hildy Stern; snapolitano@citymb.com; Richard Montgomery; Joe Franklin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please end the BBTF

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

MB City Council Members,

For over 35 years Manhattan Beach has been my home, and I have lived in three different neighborhoods, each with its own unique qualities. During all of that time the City, as a whole and each neighborhood I called home, has been a compilation of wonderful, caring people who welcomed all to enjoy our town. Manhattan Beach is not a racist city, nor is it a city guilty of institutional racism. Events that happened here more than one-hundred years ago, while unfortunate, are not the fault of any of today's residents, and we should not be held to blame or forced to apologize.

There is already far too much divisiveness and unnecessary tension in our country at this time. Let's not intensify that negativity here in our small community by continuing the BBTF. It is time to end the political and cultural division that exists, and will continue to exist, by allowing the City to be mired in a cause the goal of which is to divide rather than unify. Please terminate the task force immediately and reject its recommendations.

Ellen Harrington

Martha Alvarez

From: Rick Ascher <rabigocean@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 10:47 AM
To: Steve Napolitano; Hildy Stern; List - City Council
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] The Slander and Libel of MB by some members of its own City Council

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Thanks Steve---America was a very different place in the 1920's . Obviously . a task force of 13 unelected social justice warriors could be put to work in every town in the USA to find wrongs that need to be righted. After all the rioting, looting, and burning of cities in this country causing death and destruction to the tune of 20 billion dollars are we, as a city, to condemn BLM and Antifa ?? We did have to board up this city. Do we want to, in any way paint this city as racist or having a racist past and by doing this tacitly invite BLM and Antifa to MB burn down the city ?? Stranger things have happened and we saw a powder keg at one point here in MB, at times, during the summer, If the council wants to state that America and its attitudes have changed dramatically since the 1920's and we abhor and detest racism in any form (which all good and sane people do),fine, but it should be made clear that it is not an MB issue ---i would bet that even in the social mores of the 1920's MB was a comparatively welcoming place even though it was a tiny town of sand dunes that people did not want to live in as beachside living was considered very damp and cold. MB CC should contend that we consider our town AMONG THE MOST WELCOMING IN THIS COUNTRY. Do not let Le Bron James (it's understood that he is making a documentary) and the other very nefarious forces at work turn this very benevolent town into their SJW experiment or petrie dish as you know they would want to do . We have all seen many friends chased out of California due to crazy tax policies . We do not need to see more leave this great town, or never move here, due to a witch hunt or "scarlet letter" branding. The " Concerned Residents of MB" (dk the group) are not misinformed or lacking clear thinking , they seem to have done extensive research and deserve to be heard even if one does not like their conclusions..

On Monday, March 15, 2021, 10:37:00 PM PDT, Steve Napolitano <snapolitano@citymb.info> wrote: Thanks , Steve ...regards, Rick Ascher

PS Having gone to Cal Berkeley from 81-85 , i enjoy debate and discourse. Some of my greatest times were debating my Professors (who were friends too) that thought the old USSR, Nikolai Ceausescu's Romania and Castro's Cuba were good places. Please dont take anything the wrong way and feel free to come back!

Thanks for your email Rick, I appreciate your input. Please understand that there's a lot of misinformation circulating out there about the Bruce's Beach Task Force, including the two page ad in the Beach Reporter this week. I apologize in advance for the long email, and if it sounds defensive, well, it's because I've been accused of saying and doing a lot of things I've never said or done, so here's my attempt to clarify some things in response to the fiction out there...

There's never been any delay tactics by me, that's just silly. Nobody wants to have this heard more than me at this point. The Task Force asked for some additional time to finish their report and we said ok. Wouldn't be much to talk about at a meeting if they hadn't completed their report.

Formation of the Task Force was unanimously approved by the City Council last year after a lot of input and a renewed interest in getting and sharing the real history behind Bruce's Beach. The members of the Task Force were also unanimously appointed and they all live in Manhattan Beach.

The Task Force did not exceed the scope of what it was tasked to do. It may have talked about things that some folks didn't want it to talk about, but Task Forces talk about things, that's what they do. Hildy and I helped facilitate the meetings and provided input based on our experience, however, the work of the task force is the work of the other 13 members of it. Neither Hildy nor I wrote any of their materials, nor did we vote to approve what they wrote. Sometimes they listened to my input, sometimes they didn't.

There's nothing in the Task Force's report or apology that explicitly states that Manhattan Beach is a racist city or calls anyone out as being racist, but I understand people can read into things what they want. I publicly stated last September that we're not a racist city and I've restated that again and again. It's also specifically stated in the Notes from the Co-Chairs and my version of an apology, both of which can be found in Tuesday's agenda.

The Task Force is not working with Supervisor Hahn on any of this. The Supervisor has made statements about giving back the Bruce's property which is currently County property. I have never talked to her about Bruce's Beach and at the end of the day, I think Supervisor Hahn knows that she can't give the property back because that would be a gift of public property.

To be clear, the Council has already stated it will not pay anyone for anything—no reparations, no restitution. We're not giving back any land or building housing on it either. The park stays a park.

I don't support the Task Force's version of an apology, I think it drags in other issues and instances that should not be included. My alternative apology is strictly focused on the City's involvement as a public agency in the racially motivated condemnation of the properties, all the properties, in the 1920's. It also says that we're not the same City today that we were then, that the current residents are not responsible for what happened then, and that today we stand against such racist actions. I'm not sure why anyone would be opposed to that. It's not a confession or assignment of blame or guilt, it's an acknowledgement of facts that we already know and our role in them at that time. And yes, I think that the City saying its sorry is a meaningful symbolic gesture that puts us on more solid ground going forward.

A social justice committee is not one of the Task Force recommendations. There are only 5 actual recommendations and that isn't one of them. The Task Force talks about wanting to work on putting one together in Appendix 5, but only with Council's permission. I don't agree that we need one and don't support it. However, even if it were created, this notion that it would have unfettered powers of oversight is complete nonsense. Commissions don't do anything but make recommendations. They're advisory. They have no power on their own to do anything. Only Council has that power.

If the racial motivations behind the condemnation are being questioned, I'd just advise you to read the history that the volunteers put together that deal with what happened and with the common misconceptions about Bruce's Beach as well. It's very well researched. Even one of the councilmembers at the time later admitted to it, saying they were advised by the City Attorney to never speak about the true reason behind it during the trial. The former Councilmember, Frank Dougherty said he thought it was the meanest thing he ever did and felt sorry for doing it. I've got a copy of the article if you want me to send it to you.

I've heard it said that this is a power grab, but I don't know what that means. What power? Who's grabbing it? And why?

It's been said that the Task Force's apology states that "MB must make amends by building low income housing, and establishing a permanent commission on Racial Equity and Social Justice presiding over MBPD, city staff, businesses and schools." The Task Force's apology language does not state any of those things.

Again, sorry for the long email, but I don't think it serves anyone to be misinformed about these things. If, after reading all this, you still are against the Task Force and everything they've done or recommend, that's fine, I get it. I don't agree with a lot of what they've put down on paper either, but it's only fair that their

efforts be seen through a clear lense rather than a purposely distorted one. Anyway, appreciate you reading all this and I hope it has clarified some of the issues for you. Thanks!

Steve Napolitano
Councilmember
City of Manhattan Beach



STEVE NAPOLITANO

COUNCILMEMBER

(310) 880-7500
snapolitano@citymb.info

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From: Rick Ascher <rabigocean@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 5:12 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The Slander and Libel of MB by some members of its own City Council

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

To the Members of MB City Council---As a 35 year resident of Manhattan beach , i have only seen a city that is welcoming to all with malice to none . To be clear , I have never witnessed racism of any kind in all my years and I am quite sure that if anyone in this town ever exhibited racism in any form , they would quickly become a pariah , excommunicated from the town square and persona non grata . We all know that to be accused of racism is a defamatory and ugly charge, and the height of arrogance is for one man or group to claim to know what is in another man's heart . The heart of the City and citizens of Manhattan Beach is good and benevolent. In 1920 , much of Manhattan Beach was a sand dune and a desolate part of LA---America was quite a different place (some had abhorrent ignorance toward people of color , irish , italians, etc) but the most free place iin the world and greatest force for good in the history of mankind as it remains today..Always striving to create a more perfect union . Politicians in America are trying to divide all based on race , sex , gender , etc , etc,-- lets not allow MB to become an experiment in division and distrust. In the words of the great MLK --- "judge not by the color of ones skin but by the content of ones character" ---I believe these words demonstrate how MB citizens would appraise ALL their fellow Americans. I would hope that members of the MB City Council would push back firmly against any and all slanderous and libelous accusations against this great town and its citizens. Thank you all for your service . Sincerely ...Rick Ascher PS it is unconscionable to think that the Park at 27th st should be changed ---every municipality in the country would have someone or a party with a grievance that would demand remuneration, it would never end, and could number in the trillions . As one with Latino heritage/ ancestors , I would be due a great deal of land from the 1800's outside Tucson and Albuquerque that was taken, apparently, for pennies. No one has ever pondered this in my extended family, only old stories from the old days exist, and gratitude for being American.

Martha Alvarez

From: Alan Edmisten <taralem@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 10:47 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Disband task force

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Manhattan Beach is NOT a racist city. We do NOT need a permanent commission. What we do need to do is address the crime in the South Bay that I'm seeing reported on Next-door....

Tarri Everson

Martha Alvarez

From: Devon Norris <devonnorris@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 10:43 AM
To: List - City Council
Cc: Jordan Markland
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force Concerns

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hello City Council Members,

I hope you are all doing well and staying safe. I've been going back and forth about reaching out but figured it was better for my voice to be heard than not.

I've been following the Bruce's Beach Task Force over the past few months and am extremely concerned about what has transpired. This issue has become such a circus and somehow our small little beach town is ending up in international news?! This is all due to tons of outside voices feeling the need to insert themselves into our business and the city allowing them to. The longer this gets dragged on, the more we allow people to attack our city and falsely make accusations about the residents that live here. This TF has completely torn our community apart and caused so much hatred among residents. What happened to our small, loving, neighborly community that we all love so much, and why we live here? I feel the city is constantly tearing us apart instead of bringing us together, which is very sad to see.

This past year has undoubtedly caused massive amounts of stress and anxiety for MB residents. We are worried about COVID, staying healthy, working from home, studying from home, taking care of our kids while working a full-time job, increasing crime, elections, riots, and much more. This added stress of the TF and what they are proposing and the uncertainty of this city is not fair to put on us residents, who have been through enough already. We didn't have any input on the decision to create the TF, we didn't elect the members of the TF and we don't have any control over what they are proposing, which is far outside what they were tasked to do. It is extremely concerning that councilmembers instructed the TF to go outside of their duties and pushed their own agendas with this TF. What is being proposed by the TF is outrageous and should be rejected. This is a city issue and residents should absolutely have a say in what happens with these TF "demands". We are hard-working, tax-paying residents who don't deserve to have ourselves and our city slandered by outsiders and a few disgruntled residents. Some of these "demands" have huge financial and safety repercussions for our community as well which is very scary.

Please reject everything outside of the exact duties that the TF was tasked with and dismantle the TF immediately. This has gone on for far too long and has caused so much damage to this city. I hope if this happens, our community can start to come together and love one another again. I am hopeful that can happen, and I think the city council needs to support that.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to our city.

Best,
Devon

Martha Alvarez

From: Michael Stauber <michaelstauber@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 10:42 AM
To: List - City Council
Cc: Julie Stauber
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Manhattan Beach Council members,

As 20+ year residents of MB myself and my wife Julie do not believe and are offended that our city has been called racist. We oppose the demands of the BBTF and do not support using any city funds to establishing a Social Justice Oversight Committee, we oppose signing any apology letter and oppose any of their recommendations. This situation needs to be based on facts and our laws already in place, not on any parties social or political pressures and desires. End the Task Force.

Thank you listening to the citizens of our welcoming community,

Michael & Julie Stauber

Martha Alvarez

From: Anthony Gabriel <anthonygabriel@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 10:40 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force should be ended

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I really think the Bruce's Beach task force has overstepped what they intended to. The factual history here is limited, and I think they have have exaggerated or interpolated the limited facts that were able to be obtained from long ago. I think it is time that the task force be thanked for what they've done, and to end it. At this point, I do not think that there is a need for any specific actions to be done as a result of the task force's work.

Please do not take their recommendations for any specific actions. I will not be able to attend the meeting tonight.

Anthony Gabriel
328 16th St.

Martha Alvarez

From: Don Spencer <donspencer.art@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 10:36 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Basics

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Thinking or empathically feeling that one's race is important is exactly the meaning of being "racist".

Anything we do that supports such thought or feeling is harmful.

Past generations thought that race was important. Today we know it is not.

Anyone, or any group that feels a need to receive an apology for race-based mistakes, what they call misdeeds, of the past must still feel that race is important.

Anyone, or any group, that feels an urge to apologize for the mistakes, what they call misdeeds, of the past must still feel that race is important.

Logically: Wanting an apology or giving an apology are both racist based and harmful.

(I realize that an identification with our City Government, which is justifiably important, would make each Council Member empathically sensitive to the mistakes of past councils. Please do not let that appropriate empathy lead you to an inappropriate empathy with issues of race.)

Don Spencer
2901 Crest Drive
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
310 546 7913

Martha Alvarez

From: Kathy Taylor <taylorkathymb@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 10:29 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce Beach Task Force Proposal

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City Council,

Because these issues of an apology and a DEI are so damaging to the residents of Manhattan Beach and would have a direct, long term effect by way of taxes and property values, not to mention the attack the residents are taking on their moral character, perhaps the city should let the residents vote on these issues. If you are going to pass either of these, the overwhelming number of residents will not accept what you are forcing on them and they may take legal action in overstepping your authority. What is your opinion of putting the decisions on the ballot where ONLY the residents will have a say?

Thank you,
Kathy Taylor

Martha Alvarez

From: Phillips Lee <leephillipsmd@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 10:22 AM
To: List - City Council; City Manager
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force: City Council Agenda item
Attachments: BBTF.forever.mp4

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

I was hopeful that Bruce's Beach task Force could write an accurate history, update wording on a plaque and produce an art piece.

That was 5 months ago.

My opinion is the task force which by definition has a limited time and scope has completely become dysfunctional and led astray by those with an agenda.

I am also saddened by what I hear in the video, a co-chair going to the MB city attorney to get cover to continue the task force, a lawyer for hermosa beach conspiring to extend the life of the task force and the appearance that this CC member agrees with him. The whole discussion of producing a report to purposefully confuse the City Council.

They are counting on the City Council not explicitly discontinuing the Bruce's Beach Task Force, in the absence of a direct disbandment of the task force, it will continue and take on additional tasks and morph into an DEIC.

It leaves a bad taste in my mouth, we the residents believed the agenda was an art piece, plaque and accurate history.

The City Council must:

- Disband the Bruce's Beach Task Force on 3/16/2021
- Consider the report final
- Reject everything in the report except an art piece, re wording on the plaque and accurate history. All the appendices and other recommendations.

Lee Phillips

Martha Alvarez

From: Michael Israeli <mikeisraeli@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 9:51 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach

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Hi- I am a resident of Manhattan Beach, and have been for almost 10 years. I welcome all to our amazing community.

With that being said, I vote on the following.

To end the task force.
Have no oversight committee.
Oppose low income housing and homeless shelters.
No antiracism training
No racial equality training for city personnel.
And reject the apology letter and other recommendations.
I will consider a plaque and art piece acknowledging the Bruce Family

Thanks,
Michael Israeli
310 801 0099
19th St, Manhattan Beach

Martha Alvarez

From: Liz Glozman <lizglozman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 9:49 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City Council Members,

I would like to express that I truly value the work that the Bruce's Beach Task Force is doing. I think they should continue with what they are doing. It is very important that we confront our past so that we can move forward. I completely disagree with the "concerned residents of Manhattan Beach". Thank you very much for your service.

Liz Glozman

Martha Alvarez

From: AWP Pitts <annpitts@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 9:48 AM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force recommendations

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Honorable Mayor Hadley and Council Members,
I was shocked by the provocative ad in the Beach Reporter and after fact-checking, I'd like to register an opinion.

I believe in reparations to blacks in the US for transgressions of previous generations, administrations, and unfair policies. I don't think it's up to small communities with limited resources to take on this enormous task. I look to federal and state governments to do this on our and their behalf.

What our community could do is apologize for the transgressions of previous leaders and community members long since past, and in that spirit offer an olive leaf to current descendants. I do not agree that low-income housing or housing for the homeless should be located on the most valuable real estate in the US. I commend RB for doing so, but their development is a few miles inland.

Instead we could recognize the unethical behavior and transactions by the following:

A day of recognition, a citywide Bruce's Beach sale day at local businesses, a joint partnership with USC for a dedicated scholarship in the name of Bruce's Beach and MB, a scholarship fund for young black students that's voluntary contribution by MBEF donors, a fund for black business owners in MB, as well as a new plaque and art installation, and the other non-housing options recommended. Good luck with this!

Thank you,
Ann Pitts
861 3rd St.
MB 90266

310-5271473

Martha Alvarez

From: Linda Gamble <lindagamble@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 9:44 AM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruces's Beach

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City Council Members,

I am emailing in support of the Bruce's Beach Task Force. What the Bruce Family endured in the 1920's should be acknowledged, apologized for, and redressed to the greatest extent possible. The recommendations set forth by the Bruce Beach Task Force are just the beginning, and I fully support the ongoing efforts to right this wrong of the past.

Respectfully,

Linda M. Gamble

Martha Alvarez

From: Mike Michalski <mike@realestateedge.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 9:37 AM
To: City Clerk; List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force - City Council Agenda Item #12

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City Council:

Please either disband the Bruce's Beach Task Force (BBTF) or refocus them on their original goals of (1) developing a full historical account of Bruce's Beach, (2) crafting the language for a new plaque that accurately reflects that history, and (3) commissioning a piece of artwork that will properly memorialize that history (but not at a budget of \$500,000, as was done in Santa Monica).

Council is already on record as opposing restitution, reparations and land restoration to the Bruces. Council should also reject the BBTF recommendation that the City collaborate with LA County on the disposition of the lifeguard administration and training facility and, instead, push back against Janice Hahn on any misguided efforts on the part of the County to return that land (and the facility that sits on it) to the Bruce family.

As for the BBTF's other recommendations (Appendix 5), Council should reject all of them with the possible exceptions of the first two. Of particular concern is the establishment of a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission (an unelected racial police force whose sole mission will be to discover racism throughout Manhattan Beach whether it exists or not).

Lastly, the City should not issue an apology, which will only be used against the City by the grifters and racial hucksters who've glommed onto the Bruce family looking for big payday at the expense of Manhattan Beach's residents. Even a well-meaning apology for the wrong done 100 years ago will be seized upon as an admission of culpability and liability and will be reported in that fashion by a compliant and biased media (the reporter that covers Manhattan Beach for the Daily Breeze and the Beach Reporter was actually a member of the activist group that co-sponsored last August's protest rally at City Hall).

Instead, we should be looking at issuing an acknowledgement and condemnation, without using the word apology.

Thank you,

Mike Michalski

Martha Alvarez

From: Mike Michalski <mike@realestateedge.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 9:37 AM
To: City Clerk; List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force - City Council Agenda Item #12

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City Council:

Please either disband the Bruce's Beach Task Force (BBTF) or refocus them on their original goals of (1) developing a full historical account of Bruce's Beach, (2) crafting the language for a new plaque that accurately reflects that history, and (3) commissioning a piece of artwork that will properly memorialize that history (but not at a budget of \$500,000, as was done in Santa Monica).

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Instead, we should be looking at issuing an acknowledgement and condemnation, without using the word apology.

Thank you,

Mike Michalski

Martha Alvarez

From: Audrey Judson <homes@audreyjudson.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 9:32 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City Council Members,

I would like to state my support for the Bruce's Beach Task Force and the proposed written apology. I know that many members of the community are offended by the creation of the task force and the suggestion of an apology. Without acknowledging the past and learning from our mistakes, as a society, we are destined to repeat similar mistakes.

I heard about the Bruce family and other black families in the 1980's. I was appalled by their treatment. But I was also disappointed that this shameful part of local history was not taught to my children in MBUSD. I hope this changes.

I understand that current residents would like everyone to move on from this history. It's unpleasant. But can you imagine if you were a descendant of one of these families and knew that residents today would like this swept under the rug? As a child and grandchild of Holocaust survivors, I understand what it's like to have your family's property taken and enjoyed by others with no compensation or acknowledgement. I'm not suggesting that the land be returned, but I would like to see LA County join the city and create some sort of memorial with a suggestion and link for donations to a charitable fund that provides help to minority communities (i.e. United Negro College Fund, Thurgood Marshall College Fund, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund).

Thank you for listening to my suggestions and for attempting to address a long overlooked problem.

Kind Regards,

Audrey Judson

310.902.3234

Martha Alvarez

From: Tim Thomas <trthomas@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 9:04 AM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach comments to MBCC

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

MBCC,

Please proceed with caution until you are sure you have the sense of all your voters on this issue, not just that of the noisemakers on both sides.

To me, there is no question that removing the Bruce commercial operation from the area was the repugnant motivation for the taking. So apologize for that if you must. But be careful to note that the Bruces could have purchased other property in MB at the time, just as the other four or five black families did. And always remember that the vast majority of the lots condemned were owned by white people. Their loss of the so called opportunity to build "generational wealth" was the same as that of the Bruces.

I moved to Manhattan Beach in 1974, after four years in the Navy. When I graduated from school in 1970, I had \$50 to my name. My mother sold the home we grew up in in 2001 for \$28k. My parents purchased the home in 1956 for \$12.6k. I received no "generational wealth". I bristle when I hear that term. We are wealthy today because I bought an MB home, and half of an adjacent rental property, in 1974 and 1991, respectively, and because I worked my ass off for thirty years.

A couple of quick questions for the History Committee. Did you ever find the detailed report the three appraisers must have prepared to value the condemned properties? And is there more detail about the Bruce acquisition of the second lot in the early 1920s? The reports states an acquisition price of \$10. That surely cannot be correct. Deeds in that era often recited "\$10 and other valuable consideration." What did they really pay? It is also said that they built on the lot, what did they build?

Tim Thomas
326 28th

Martha Alvarez

From: Dave Peranich <dperanich@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 8:33 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

All,

Thank you for your service to our wonderful city. This city is and has been a sensational place, it is the finest location I have lived, and I have lived in many. One of the things that makes it great is it's inclusive nature. It's inclusivity has been shown over the recent turbulent times as the citizens have come out in support of racial equity - you saw it in signs all over the city, in assemblies and marches.

The challenge with the times we live in is one of emotional reaction versus rational, fact based analysis - this is across a host of issues.

The fact of the matter is that MB is not a racist city. It is not institutionally racist. Its police chief is not racist, and in fact is black and he has been in the office for many years - well before the recent turbulence. There may well be individuals with issues to improve on and work through. I have never seen it, but it is likely given the human milieu. But I have never seen the city do anything even remotely close to racist.

So I strongly urge city council to resist the current impulse to go with emotional analysis and look at the facts:

- We are not racist
- We do not need or want a permanent oversight committee or Commission on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. This is a common move right now - and easy out for cities to put on the APPEARANCE of taking important and appropriate action. But in reality, this will not be beneficial, but would in fact be detrimental to the smooth functioning of the city, and would result in unnecessary cost and service impacts.
- We do not need or want to have our tax dollars going to dedicated staff to institute antiracism community programming - or any sort of community programming for that matter. We need to think for ourselves, we don't need government telling us how to do that on any topic - this is not government's role.
- We need to consider the BBTF report as final
- We need to dismantle the task force effective today.

Thank You

Dave Peranich
222 17th St, MB

Martha Alvarez

From: Lenie Ramos <3ftgoofy@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 8:16 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Racism in MB

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

To whom it may concern,

Being a woman of color and a resident of MB for 21 years, I still don't feel the inclusion of the city. If this city is rooted in racism it needs to make right what history has proven to be the wrong towards black Americans. This country will never move forward if the injustices are not corrected.

Manhattan Beach was built on racism, it's still apparent to this day based on the number of people of color. When people say they are not racist, they proving themselves to be one based on their ignorance.

My hope is that the city will correct the facts of their history and make right what is due to a community that was unfairly treated.

Sincerely -
Lenie Ramos

Pls forgive typos 😊😬🙏

Martha Alvarez

From: Jen Clark <jen@tidbitdesign.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 8:12 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City Council,

Bruce's Beach is an historic piece of land with a special history to Manhattan Beach and the black community.

I believe the city of MB has a civic responsibility to honor, apologize and make right for the wrongs of the past and present injustices of the black community.

The South Bay has a history and frankly, continuing racist over and undertones. It's time to state that this is not only unacceptable but to build a community that is anti-racist. We must work toward inclusion and diversity!

The first step is to acknowledge the wrongs of the past and to make right for the now and future.

Please apologize and be on the right side of history if not for you, for your children.

Racism stops here!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Clark

Martha Alvarez

From: bgriff616@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 7:55 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force Demands

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

I am a 46 year resident of this city. End the Task Force tonight at the meeting. No permanent oversight committee. Only consider a factual history of the Bruce Family. Reject the apology letter and all of the Task Force demands.

Barry Griffiths
616 8th St.

Martha Alvarez

From: Janet London <janetrondon@earthlink.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 7:51 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] bruce's beach

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

I am writing in support of the task force and a recognition of the past.

I find that the fact that I have to write in support of the right thing to do says alot about the need of remembrance and acknowledgement of the past. and- explain to my neighbors that we are all part of a larger problem of systematic racism. Recognizing the past does not label us in some way.

Honoring the families injured does not give the heirs some legal power - law and the courts will if appropriate.

We all need to be better.

The efforts of the task force make us better.

Janet London

Manhattan Beach Resident

Sent from my iPhone

Martha Alvarez

From: Sondra Wenger <sondra.wenger@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 7:46 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] End Social Justice Oversight Committee

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

I am a resident of Manhattan Beach. We are not a racist city. We are a city of fairness and opportunity. We are gracious, welcoming and compassionate. We enjoy sharing our small town beach culture with others. **We need to end the social justice oversight committee.** We need to only consider a factual account of history, which does not require an apology letter from residents of Manhattan Beach. Do not turn our City into a Portland.

--
Sondra Wenger
310.430.8632
sondra.wenger@gmail.com

Martha Alvarez

From: Jeanne Draves <jdraves65@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 7:42 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach - There is only one question ...

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City Council -

First, I just want you to know I am praying for all of you. You are in a difficult and untenable position regarding the desired outcome of this task force. So, I don't envy you at this time, but only pray for wisdom as you handle this issue.

To me, there is only one question. Was the Bruce family fairly compensated at the time of eminent domain? If the family was not fairly compensated, then the city should pay the family descendants the difference between the market value of the property and what they were given and then calculate for present day value. And the other families that had their land taken at the same time should be compensated as well.

If the Bruce family was fairly compensated, then no payouts, land grants, reparations, etc. need to be given. This would set a horrible precedent for eminent domain cases across the nation, for all the offended party would need to do is claim systematic racism. Perhaps racism was the motivation for this eminent domain, but other non-black families had their land taken as well. We cannot right the wrongs of the past based upon assumptions, even if those assumptions feel right and are backed up by a lot of emotion from the "woke" crowd.

We cannot right all the wrongs of the past. We can only learn from them and ensure that we don't continue to commit the wrongs going forward.

Thank you for letting me voice my opinion on this issue.
Respectfully,
Jeanne Draves
Manhattan Beach resident

Martha Alvarez

From: Gary McAulay <gary.mcaulay@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 6:58 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BBTF history report comments to council

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hello Council

I offer some comments on the Bruce's Beach Task Force history subcommittee report of March 9, 2021. I personally know that the subcommittee has worked diligently on this report and Herculean efforts have been made on the research and documentation, in an attempt to meet the desired goal of getting the actual facts together about the Bruce's Beach story. I understand that the draft being presented on Tuesday is a "living document" that will be updated in the future, but the March 9 draft is the one being presented. So some thoughts:

The late 19th century and the early 20th century were a very different time from today. Much was changing. There were conflicts. Race relations across the United States deteriorated and the era from 1877 to 1901, 1923, or even 1940 has become known as the Nadir of American race relations. There were race riots, lynchings, court decisions legalizing segregation, racial property covenants, redlining, and more, across the whole US.

During this era, empty sand dunes saw the beginnings of a tiny town that eventually became today's Manhattan Beach. Willie Bruce bought a Strand lot in May, 1912. An LA Times article made the so far unconfirmed claim that she paid a high price compared to the cost of nearby lots. Whether or not this turns out to be correct, Mrs. Bruce was an astute businesswoman and she chose to make the investment, paying \$1225 for her first lot. A few years later she bought a second lot next-door for a mere \$10. Mrs. Bruce built a very successful business from a small start. That's something to remember.

Mrs. Willie Bruce (as she signed letters) opened her business June 17, 1912. The City of Manhattan Beach had not even been incorporated; this occurred in December, with a population estimated to be only about 600 people.

The subcommittee report on the history of Bruce's Beach carefully details and documents the story of the Bruce's resort. There is necessary reliance on the 1956 student thesis of Robert Brigham, who was completing his master's degree. Brigham interviewed several people who'd had some part in the story of Bruce's Beach. Brigham wrote several cautions about the interviews he conducted and often questioned the accuracy and even the reliability of his witnesses. Yet he included every anecdote in his paper, and through the years those stories have been repeated countless times, and are now regularly repeated as fact. But, Brigham's thesis contains a number of stories, assumptions, and conjectures that are simply not confirmed history, and some plain simple errors.

What is the standard for a fact in the BBTF history report? It seems to be appropriately high, but also there are stories repeated that don't meet the standard. Sometimes it is noted that they are unconfirmed stories, but there they are in this factual report, where they confuse the facts and the fiction.

There must be some standard applied before an incident can be considered a fact of history. A story told by a single individual, uncorroborated by a second witness or any form of documentation, is just a story. The

measure of a fact is not that it sounds like something that could have happened. For example, there is a story (that you may be familiar with) which claims that the beach at Waikiki was created with sand from Manhattan Beach. Regarding Bruce's Beach, there have been printed stories, told by somebody old enough to have been there, that Bruce's resort was burned down. These are just two examples of stories and embellishments that sound so good they must be true, except they are not.

There is evidence to disprove both of those stories. But, really, the burden of proof is on the assertion of fact. A single "witness" claim, unsupported by other witnesses or documentation, that something happened, cannot be called a fact.

Among possible corroborating witnesses, one of Brigham's informants was Hugh E. MacBeth, an attorney who represented some of the landowners during the eminent domain proceedings, as well as the NAACP after the swim-in. MacBeth informed Brigham that Blacks frequently found that air had been let out of their tires while at Bruce's Beach (this is the source of the exaggerated story that tires were "slashed"). However, MacBeth apparently did not repeat any of the stories of cross-burnings, or the alleged mattress fire, etc. His information to Brigham is only of the tires having the air let out, and of the trespass trial on the Bessonette leased beach property.

Please be aware that I can substantiate with sources everything that I am writing but such detail would make an even lengthier email. Please contact me if you have any questions on any item whatsoever.

The role of George H. Peck, Jr.

The BBTF reports that around the time of the opening of the "Bruce Beach Front," there were "no trespassing" signs posted around a strip of beach property owned by George H. Peck, Jr. Visitors at the Bruce's had to walk around that property to access the ocean.

In other places you will read or hear it said that the LA Times article from June 27, 1912, "...reported that land owner George H Peck installed 'no trespassing' signs on the strip of land..."

This is not correct. The cited article says, "this strip has been staked off and 'no trespassing' signs put up..." The BBTF history report says that "it is unclear if the signs were placed at Peck's request or even with his knowledge."

More to the point: not unclear, but flat unknown.

And again, note that this occurred before the City was incorporated.

Roping off the beach:

To be clear, only one person reported that the beach had ever been roped off. It was claimed thirty years after the fact by George H. Lindsey, and it involved an alleged series of telegrams, as related in the BBTF report. Brigham did not relate how Lindsey claimed to have knowledge of the story. Even the year of the alleged occurrence is not given by Brigham, although later writers often suggest (in contradiction to the contemporary newspaper report) that it occurred at the opening of the business.

No other informants say anything about the beach being roped off. No stories about roping off the beach have surfaced in the California Eagle or the Liberator. The story is unsupported.

From the report: "Multiple sources, however, did state that there were barriers impeding access to the water from the Strand near the Bruces' resort..."

But: while there was (1) the original 1912 Times article that said the beach was staked off with "No Trespassing" signs and patrolled by deputy constables." And there was (2) the post-Bruce's resort episode with Oscar Bessonette who also used "No Trespassing" signs. Otherwise, besides Lindsey's belated and unconfirmed hearsay story that the beach was roped off, there is only Bowden née Prioleau's account of a "fence *at either end* of the beach in front of Bruce's Lodge." [italics added.] Brigham himself wrote that, "this informant was the only one who ever mentioned such a fence..."

Lindsey's and Bowden's stories are unsupported stories told decades later.

So, I cannot find the "Multiple sources" that stated that there were "barriers impeding access to the water from the Strand near the Bruces' resort."

"The Bruces' and their resort flourished," and photos show the beach being enjoyed extensively.

Re: Peck setting aside land for minority residents:

This story, noted on the current plaque, is also unsupported, The BBTF report correctly says that, "there is no verifiable evidence from primary or other sources that Peck actually set aside land for this purpose,,,"

Although Peck actively opposed incorporation of Manhattan Beach in 1912, and he wrote in opposition to the City's expenditures to build a new pier, he was silent on the matter of Bruce's Beach. This certainly does not support the story that he set land aside for minorities. It also does not inform as to his position either way on the eminent domain action.

The role of the KKK

The BBTF report says, "It is also important to note that the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) was showing its influence in the area at that time. On January 12, 1924, The Redondo Breeze published an ad that invited readers to a free lecture on "The Principles of the KKK and Ideals of Pure Americanism." ²⁵ The California Eagle, a prominent African-American newspaper from 1879-1964, reported on the front page of its July 4, 1924, issue that the KKK was operating unrestricted along the waterfront."

But, to be accurate, while the KKK was active in the South Bay area, and while The California Eagle suggested that the KKK had an "undue influence" on the MB Board of Trustees, even Alison R Jefferson wrote, "Based on current available evidence, we can only speculate whether the KKK's activities may have influenced the Manhattan Beach city council in the condemnation proceedings of the Bruce's Beach establishment..."

Or as stated in the BBTF report, ".,.,there was no evidence directly linking acts of harassment to the KKK..."

The BBTF report then goes on to list several alleged racially-motivated incidents, both those supposedly KKK related and others not:

- air being let out of tires
- a mattress fire supposedly set by a Klansman at Bruce's Lodge
- a Black owned house partially burned by an angry neighbor
- "10 minutes only" parking signs posted to harass a Black homeowner
- a cross burned on a hill above a Black-owned house

The partially-burned house may be substantiated (I can't find the news article on the fire at the moment) but it is not attributed to the KKK.

Only the alleged incidents of a cross burning and the Bruce's Lodge fire are attributed to the KKK.

None of the stories was recounted or corroborated by a second informant, or substantiated by a newspaper or other recorded account (except possibly the partially burned house occurred.)

Taking the **mattress fire story** specifically under examination, because it is popularly reported and exaggerated:

"A Manhattan resident who was a member of the Board of Trustees in 1924 tells of some of the activities of the Manhattan Klan. Possibly referring to the attempted burning mentioned previously in this chapter, he recounted a night in the early 1920's when he followed a siren to Bruce's Lodge where someone (supposedly a Klansman) had set fire to a mattress under the main building. This produced lots of smoke, but the only fire was in the eyes of Mrs. Bruce as she greeted the white spectators."

- Brigham pp 41-42 informant 12 - Cassius L. Robbins

The story told by Cassius Robbins about the smoldering mattress fire at the lodge is especially weak. It is completely unsubstantiated.

- It was told at least 30 years after the fact.
- There is no record or evidence of a "Manhattan Klan."
- There are no known contemporary newspaper accounts of this event, either in local papers or in Black-owned papers.
- The California Eagle wrote about a guy handing a KKK leaflet to three Blacks on the Redondo pier in 1924, but didn't report that the KKK tried to burn down the Bruce's Beach building. Why?
- The story of the fire and response by a fire department was not reported in the Manhattan Beach News, which at the time reported every fire that occurred, down to the most minor grass fires.
- It was not recounted by any other of Brigham's informants, Black or White.
- It was not mentioned by attorney Hugh E. Macbeth, who *did* report that Black resort-goers, "frequently returned from the beach to find that the air had been let out of their automobile tires."

It seems to me that unsubstantiated stories do not belong in a factual history.

But the BBTF report goes on to say, "**Despite this harassment**, Black residents and guests did not cease coming to the beach. According to reports from the California Eagle, it was just as popular as ever."

Which is a good point, *but assumes that "this harassment" actually happened*. The stories above are unsubstantiated.

In the end, Mrs. Bruce decided to settle.

BBTF report: "The California Eagle printed a letter from E. Burton Ceruti, Attorney for the L.A. Branch, N.A.A.C.P. on July 11, 1924, wherein he stated that Mrs. Bruce was "willing to sell her property and, even if a suit be instituted, would sell at a fair price at any time, and would abandon the suit at such time.' By December, they had entered into the condemnation proceedings with Attorney Willis O. Tyler as their lawyer."

Mrs. Bruce had run a business that attracted hundreds of Black visitors on Sundays and holidays, and which had continued to expand for some 15 years. For the \$1235 she had paid for the two lots, she settled for a payment of \$14,500.

No Manhattan Beach business that existed in 1912 survived until today.

No Manhattan Beach business that existed in 1927 survived until today.

The city grew from a population of about 600 in 1912 to about 2500 in 1924. That's for the whole city, It is unknown how many MB residents today can claim that their family was living in MB in 1912. A few, but likely not many. Maybe a few more from 1924, but again, not many. That would be an interesting project.

Again, I understand that the BBTF history report is expected to be updated as research continues, and that is a good thing, It takes so much time to research these things, It's important, however, and a primary task of the task force, to separate the facts from the fiction.

This is a good start but it's necessary to let go of some of the uncorroborated stories.

Respectfully,
Gary D. McAulay

This email is my own opinion and does not represent the position of any other person, group, or organization.

Martha Alvarez

From: Thomas Morley <tmor45@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 6:22 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MB is NOT a Racist city!

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

>
> Dear Manhattan Beach City Council,
> I am writing as a nearly 20 year resident to implore you to not surrender the honor of this city to those who wish to seize power by simply declaring us to be racists.
> Across this country radicals have been forcing their agenda upon communities by leveraging their fear of being called racists. Do not fall for it. Be strong. This Manhattan Beach Community is a wonderful, kind place to live. We do not pay obscene amounts to live here because it is a community of hate. That is absurd.
> Marxist BLM activists rolling into town calling us racists and demanding that we surrender our town to their authority and supervision is a call for you to defend our good name. You are the representatives of this fine community. Are you racists? Neither are we! Stand up for us. Fight for us. We are being slandered. Show strength and courage. We are Manhattan Beach. We are good people, we are kind people and we do not deserve to be bullied by those who would call us racists.
>
> -End the BBTF -Now
> - Do Not create any Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission
> Do not sign any Apology Letter
>
> Now is your time to stand up for us as our representatives.
>
> Do not throw the citizens of Manhattan Beach under the racism bus.
>
> Thank You
> Tom Morley
> Manhattan Beach Resident
>
>
>
> Sent from my iPhone

Martha Alvarez

From: Greg Vena <greg@venavineyards.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 5:59 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BBTF

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City Councilmembers:

I am requesting that the City Council reject the findings of the BBTF and move to disband this group at your next meeting. It appears that the BBTF has experienced mission creep, exploring areas that venture far beyond their original mandate. I'm not sure which community that they are referring to in their report, but it is not the Manhattan Beach of today that I know well. Many of their claims are unsubstantiated (even they point out areas where the information and research are incomplete). Thus, any measures to address unsubstantiated claims are unwarranted and lack foundation.

My wife and I have lived in Manhattan Beach for 23 years, raised our family, coached many sports teams, chaired school committees and bond measures and have enjoyed the company of our many friends and neighbors over these years. We know this community extremely well. This is a fair-minded, open community with a great sense of pride. To think that we can reconcile behavior from 100 years ago with the recommendations of the BBTF will only serve to divide us, not unite us.

Please reject the apology letter idea and any further considerations that come out of this toxic exercise. There are many of us here who believe that the council should be spending time on the pressing needs of the city, instead of this fruitless pursuit. We are a relatively silent majority who are busy working and raising our children. Are you going to stand up for us?

With respect.

Gregory F. Vena

President

VENA

Vena Vineyards LLC

O: 310-545-9417

C: 310-503-4029

greg@venavineyards.com

Martha Alvarez

From: Helena Burke <fufla@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 5:37 AM
To: List - City Council
Cc: Burke Helena
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear MB City Council,

I've lived in MB since 1965 and have never seen or heard of any racism existing in our city. Unfortunately, racism exists, but I cannot say that it is attributed to "our city"; if it's out there in MB, it's on an individual basis....and THAT is not the responsibility of the citizens of MB.

I don't believe for a moment that the city of MB should apologize to the Bruce family or make any reparations to the Bruce family. One hundred years ago, the city opted to take that property away from the Bruce Family, Eminent Domain. Eminent Domain is something that the government has practiced since the beginning of time, and whether it is right or wrong, or just, is not our choice.

A hundred years ago, life was very different than it is today and certain things were "acceptable". Women were largely considered second class citizens and blacks even less than that. It was the norm. But I, for one, would find it ridiculous to expect the city of Manhattan Beach to apologize to me or make any reparations to me because of the way women were treated a hundred years ago. Times changed, life progressed and, as a woman, I am paid and treated fairly and commensurate with my male counterparts. It would be asinine for anyone to apologize to me for any reason for what happened 100 years ago.

And so it is with the Bruce family. It happened. It was acceptable back then. We changed. Move on. Period.

The best thing to do with Bruce's Beach is to leave the park alone, let it stand as a public space. "Giving it back" to the family would be a gargantuan mistake. The property is worth millions and millions and millions. If that property was in Compton, no one would be in the least bit interested. But because it's in MB and worth a mountain of money.....there is interest.

Leave the park alone and stop with the apologies.

Where would we be in this world if apologies and reparations were made to every person who was ever offended? Think about all the people who lost property in communist countries due to eminent domain; you think the current, non-communist government would give back anything to families who lost things under communist rule? They would laugh their heads off. I speak from experience; my family had a HUGE parcel of land in Eastern Europe that became Communist Yugoslavia during WWII; when communism fell in 1989, and even up to today.....no one in Croatian government is apologizing or giving anything back. Never, ever going to happen.

Another personal experience was in the 1970's, the city/county of LA took property from us to build the 105 freeway. No choice. They took it. No apologies. Nothing. Zip. Bye bye. Oh, here's some money to go buy something else somewhere else.....and that was that.

We don't owe the Bruce family anything. Zip. They got their money a hundred years ago. And we have a park. The only thing the city has to do is keep the property as a park. Period.

My two cents.

Helena Burke
1545 6th Street
MB

Martha Alvarez

From: Susan M. Satya <ceosusan2010@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 5:03 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Urgent: BBTF

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

To ALL Council members

Dear council members,

I was so heartened when I began reading the March 11th, 2021 full page that started with Color Should Never Divide Us! & the truths and constructive suggestions the BB task force (which I'd not known of before) suggested that you sign. I smiled saying, "Yea MB! How wonderful they are doing this!!"

Healing begins with acknowledgement of what actually exists/existed and the courage to tell the truth. It is the only route to healing for we are truly Better Together.

And then I went on to read the second half, becae disheartened & dismayed. The "concerned residents of MB" sounded only concerned about themselves.

What I have admired about MB and some of its stellar citizens is the concern for others, the MB community, and good works for the greater good. It is truly the best of MB & gives it a reputation a cut above!

A friend sent me a t-shirt absolutely out of love after we presented our "Straight Talk About Racism"™ to The Hamptons community and in NYC: it said "Love sees no color." My heart sank as I wanted to honor his kindness and positive intent yet I knew that statement wasn't true. Then I realized a solution! got a laundry marker and wrote ALL on top of the no. For Love truly sees ALL color and Celebrates it!:: adding to the wealth & beauty of us together!

We are in an amazing time of positive possibilities. Sadly what was written at the bottom of that page was not only dishonest, unaware, it was anything but the celebration that will take us to positive change. I hope you have the love and courage to take us there!

With hope & regard,
Suze

CATALYSTS FOR CHANGE

DIVERSITY & POTENTIAL CONSULTING ♦ LIFE COACHING ♦ BUSINESS COACHING

SUSAN MAUREEN SATYA, M.A., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RE: A Current Reality

The attached is bigger than typical submissions: yet so is this issue.

The following sorts out and makes simply understandable an omnipresent issue: one essential, current, and proven to impact quality of life, health and well-being individually and collectively for us all. While many have taken to the streets to illuminate the effects on many, others from whom it originates, who have power to change it, remain unaware or unconcerned. This is an opportunity for readers to clearly see a too often misunderstood and confused concern in order to bring direly needed clarity for all our lives — inspiring people to dream and know we can move “from American apartheid to gorgeous mosaic.” Instilling each reader with the confidence to see how we each **create** and therefore can **transform** our surroundings.

And when one makes even a small step to do that, it feels BETTER. For all. And that can transform the garden which we all make up and (like it or not) live in together. Then, as Satchmo sang, “what a wonderful world it will be!”

With much regard,

CREATING **POSITIVE** CHANGE”

321 DIAMOND STREET, STE. 6, REDONDO BEACH, CA 90277

310 • 228 • 6223

CLIMATE CHANGE

Years ago, I was asked to consider the question, "Is Long Island racist?" What would you say about where you live? That the question even needed to be asked...and it does, even in wondrously diverse Los Angeles where I live, is evidence of misunderstanding and disparity of experience. For many know just looking around and turning on the news should be enough to realize the answer is "yes!". For the most part, it seems we are more comfortable with those like us. The reason, I realized, that I heard so often as a twin, "Oh it must be wonderful having someone just like you" ...of course, not true. My twin's sameness is no more accurate than our seeing only difference in diversity.

While I celebrate our cultural richness, for we are truly a Divine experiment for Good, I too often note disparity ...and continue learning myself. We cannot change what we do not understand or even notice. It's not that the many who don't see or experience, and therefore can't understand, don't want to know: the very nature of cultural privilege has kept most from doing so. That is what privilege is about: to not have to see. To have no idea of the bias and discrimination that many suffer. It is how many don't understand what immense courage we are celebrating on Martin Luther King's Birthday. It is how some, I even dare say most, don't see MLK Day's deep importance and celebrate Columbus Day oblivious that it commemorates a legacy of invasion, colonialism, and a reign of terrorism that remains a reality deeply affecting many today.

Privilege is being able to walk away and NOT have to notice it, not have to deal with what People of Color [and all women] have to put up with, ignore, make light of, get angered or humiliated by, fear, and expect as possibility EVERY day. It is the luxury of unearned preferential treatment you can take for granted just for being white [or male]: such 'a given' you don't even perceive it as advantage. But rather expect it and feel entitled to it. That fact is not a reason for defensiveness, only a need to extend that privilege to all in this great land.

But if you are a person of color you do not have that luxury: no amount of power, wealth or status can guarantee you protection from the humiliations that discrimination & belittling might inflict on you at any moment: like the very successful Latino professional who was seated with his date at the worst table for a dinner show even though he was the very first person to make a reservation and the first to arrive, or the aristocratic African-American publisher of a stellar magazine stepping off the commuter train from his elite Long Island home in route to his high end office who was thrown up against the Penn Station platform wall by police who were "looking for a black man". That 'knowing' and ubiquitous threat is a constant daily reality you cannot walk away from. A fact hit home to me when living in NYC watching news coverage of the L.A. riots I deeply noted as I turned off T.V., having had enough stress from watching it, that I could turn off such life reality by turning off my TV. Instantly cognizant that those in South Central or any friend or colleague of color could not just turn off that reality, not on any day before or after the riots, I burst into tears. And suspect it was that moment which drew me here to L.A. Here was essential opportunity for this Divine possibility - America.

Racism is the recent pretending that "my folks made it without help, by golly." When it is likely their immigrant folks, who surely struggled, were also likely cut some breaks, often by denying who they were to blend in. Indeed our Thanksgiving symbolizes Native Americans' gracious welcoming, helping those who would not otherwise have survived. Native people accepting a customary 'visitor gift offering' was then ignorantly or maliciously used ungraciously as excuse to steal their homes and land away from them: creating a myth, included in history books, that American Indians had "sold them the land" when with any cultural understanding at all they should have known that in Native culture land belonged only to Great Spirit for all to steward and honor. Sadly, settlers became violent occupiers: and the history books reflective of this male Eurocentric view. Our First Peoples rather than extending a helping hand might have instead

initially seen the new “settlers”, like so many now see newcomers, as “invaders” which the early European settlers too often turned out to be. I most often surmise that too many now treat new immigrants badly because they unconsciously or consciously are afraid what went round will come round. Columbus left a legacy of murderous destruction, a climate of dominance and separation. Perhaps more apt to call it “Invaders’ Day.” As George Carlin noted about our historical realities, perhaps our country’s motto ought to have been, “Give us a color and we’ll wipe it out.” And in our worst moments of current hostility, we are continuing that climate.

Our First Peoples might have insisted the new immigrants who followed Columbus give up their old European ways for the native ways and language. How many settlers or their descendants speak even one of the 200+ Native American languages that were the “language of the land” to which all non-Native Americans immigrated or were abducted to? Indeed, not long ago in the ‘60s, Native children coerced from their parents to be raised in white foster homes and schools had their mouths washed with soap for speaking those languages. Just 20 years ago I sat talking to a young woman on the Dineh Nation [a.k.a. Navajo] for whom such was her experience, as she, her mother and I fled to the trading post from the rage and rifle of her brother who had suffered similar cultural dismemberment, too often like too many directing it at the women of the family, tribe and white women: as men wounded everywhere tend to take it out on women. Only the curiosity of an adorable Dineh wee one who open-heartedly and unabashedly in his tininess easily climbed into the backseat of my car at the trading post, asking “what’s that? what’s that? what’s that?” and then proceeded to climb all innocent love into my lap, after he’d already quite surely climbed into my heart, traversing the chasm of “outsider”, healed my heartsick sense of despair and illusion of separation that violent day. And perhaps also that of the two Dineh adults who looked on with suspicion: bravely trusting a white woman with their precious toddler just enough to allow the moment of love to fulfill itself and work its magic.

Racism and privilege is ignoring the fact some had relations seized and sold as property; imprisoned though innocent in cold U.S. camps during WWII forced to lose homes and all they’d worked for; regularly hanged from trees (“Strange Fruit” of which Billy Holiday sang) with the omnipresent threat hanging over all others remaining; and were written out the history books. It’s ignoring Blacks and women never being given credit for all the accomplishments and inventions that moved this country forward. The people who used them not treating them fairly: though those same people had no trouble accepting the benefits of African-Americans’ hard work, inventions and achievements, so many that we take for granted still, upon which our comfort depends and we could not live as we do today without. Despite being robbed of credit, and despite hundreds of years of violent and unfair treatment toward themselves, having to hurdle daily obstacles, and continuous insults, African-Americans have survived those odds and extended extraordinary forgiveness and loving care toward whites. Such are real heroes. Like Rep. John Lewis proffering forgiveness to a Klansman despite vicious assault: the enormity of John’s courage back then, risking his life to secure the vote for many, outstanding. It is a remarkable marvelous generosity that continues to amaze me and warm my heart: extended even today when our neighbors of color are still faced with being abandoned on rooftops, left to drown in hospitals, beaten into comas, set on fire, profiled, dragged to their death, raped, and withstanding everyday insults.

Privilege is never having your neighborhood so abandoned. [And only your levys broken from deliberate disrepair as your Parish had been long coveted by wealthy developers for casino land]. Our natural resource pillagers target your homes and sacred land. Privilege is getting to label the absence of taken-for-granted easy unearned preferential respect, not as rectifying justice or balancing of scales for all of God’s children, but rather as an injustice, a deprivation, an act of hostility and a threat being done to you. And bias is hearing about others’ lives through reactive anger, defensiveness and fear. Never mind that people of color and women live daily with threat of harm and well-documented discrimination being done to them. It is,

after all, for too many privileged not about others but all about 'how I alone am affected.' And by golly, that is one's right.

When did America turn from 'we' to 'me'?

White privilege is being given the benefit of the doubt that "you can do it" and you belong there. Bias is someone assuming you can't do it, you couldn't possibly be the one in charge, you'll do it for less, you don't belong there, and sometimes having no amount of proving on your part make a difference: like the recent African-American student who'd achieved one of the highest averages in her class watching as only white students were handed permission slips to take a language class while she was denied one. Bias is pretending that white privilege does not exist. At times pretending that people of color themselves do not exist; treating them as non-persons one does not need to address or even notice. "And they are so invisible" I heard the League president say. Especially if we look without seeing the many who work all around us, often serving our needs. Hidden in plain sight. Especially if we make it clear this is not "their place" and we never go to theirs. While most people of color hear white European-Americans tell them, "Oh that couldn't have happened" or "I didn't see that, you're too sensitive," research studies show we with privilege are keenly aware of the existence and effects of discrimination. Whites said it would take a million dollars to be black and most boys said "I would kill myself" if I woke up female. Evidence that denigration and disempowerment is noticed and known, and something which whites and males never want to suffer. Yet, ironically such denigration is connected to, indeed undergirds, what they do suffer: it ultimately affects us all.

Communities making news for bias crimes and treatment are far from alone in everyday ignorances and blatant hate crimes. Even more common is it going unreported and tolerated. Clearly there is evidence, from the Jena tree, to the Minutemen, to public opinion (too often uninformed), to giving "looks", to fearful assumptions, that there are still those who maintain a false sense of entitlement: to domain that people of color are not equally entitled to, and over all women as men's property to fight over and control.

If there was no longer racism as some assert, I would not, after leading "Straight Talk About Racism"^{TM*}, have been threatened ominously. "You know you can get hurt doing that kind of thing." His body and tone making it unequivocally clear. And no, it was not the South. It was a community nationally famous for upscale professionals, elites, and celebrities. He, like the ones who threatened our meeting in Connecticut and the man I met on the Esplanade in Redondo Beach, CA, KKK. As I got away from him, apprehensive and unnerved, I thought of the three civil rights workers slain in the South: I understood more viscerally the depth of respect deserved by those three, and by Rep. John Lewis, King and so many others -- every person of color back then and now who live daily in grace-filled dignity in the face of such threat of harm. A County legislator when also asked that initial question if our community was racist said a cross burning on a front lawn was not racism just child's prank: another legislator said his being against correcting bias was "not about racism...racism will never go away."

I prefer what Ms. Mack-Abutu, Esquire said on my "Celebrating Womenstrength!"TM series panel, "Some things change. Some things never change. And some things have to change." We all can do something: all Good People of every heritage, day-by-day making each heritage proud. One voice raised when it is the voice of love, is stronger than a million voices if they are the voice of fear! It may not appear to be so, but it is true. As Adrienne Rich wrote, "My heart is moved by all I cannot save, so much has been destroyed, I have to cast my lot with those who, age after age, perversely, with no extraordinary power, reconstitute the world:" with every act of fairness, kindness, acknowledgement, encouragement, welcome and smile.

Even if our ancestors entered in dominance and ignorance, or tortured horror, we do not have to choose to perpetuate that climate and legacy. Celebrating and uplifting others enriches us! Celebrating ourselves is requisite and need not hurt anyone else! As JFK wisely said, "An error does not need to become a mistake, unless you refuse to correct it." Perhaps we can, indeed let's!!, honor the promise of this country, once again have Thanksgiving and share the blessings of this land, creating a climate of inclusion where love sees ALL colors ...and celebrates them!! Perhaps it is time for another climate change. And climate change is doable! Yes We Can!

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* Susan M. Satya, M.A. is co-creator of "Straight Talk About Racism"™

“PERFECT SENSE”

By SUSAN M. SATYA, M.A.

“Our lives begin to end the moment we remain silent about things that matter.”

-- MARTIN LUTHER KING

*“When all appears to be dark, sing your songs of glory and the darkness
will fade, will vanish.*

*One voice raised, when it is the voice of love, is stronger
than a million voices, if they are the voice of fear.*

It may not appear to be so. But I’m here to tell you it is true.

*So feel empowered. Allow yourselves to feel the glory of your caring.
For yourselves of course primarily, for each other, and for our dear planet.”*

*-- SUSAN M. SATYA - TAKEN FROM A CONVERSATION
IN 1985 WITH SUSAN AND HER MENTOR*

*“The hottest place in hell is reserved for those who in times of moral crisis
remain neutral.”*

-- DANTE

CATALYSTS FOR CHANGE

DIVERSITY & POTENTIAL CONSULTING ♦ LIFE COACHING ♦ POSITIVE SOCIAL CHANGE

SUSAN MAUREEN SATYA, M.A., FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“PERFECT SENSE”

By SUSAN M. SATYA, M.A.

For years I have heard people mystified by shooting sprees saying, “It makes no sense.” Sadly, nothing could be further from the truth. As I noted even before Columbine, if you look at our reality **it makes perfect sense**. And youths, always a barometer of a culture, do look with keen perceptiveness.

Yet there is hope. Because in its sorrowfully tragic way it does make sense, because it is not just happenstance, it can be changed. **It absolutely can be healed**. Evidence cries out the need to. And if it is a sense we do not like, then who is culpable? Who accountable? And who is willing to change it?

It will take courage and love. The kind witnessed in Newtown and the Amish response to their nightmare. The kind I have felt and witnessed in my decades of work with people, especially addressing social and gender norms begun when there was little understanding of their impact on the behavior and well-being of individuals, communities and culture. And its impact on violence. Now it is evident... yet hidden in plain sight. Community understanding and media response even now are yet to catch up, along with the need to vastly expand our willingness to see. It is a blind spot even most professionals demonstrate and fail to address, even with best intent: leaving us at risk of continued violence and people believing we are helpless in the face of it. We are not. While apathy is terminal, ignorance is curable.

Still too often the right question is never focused on or considered. For is it just a question of what IS? Or what do we WANT to be? What kind of communities do we want to create? What do we notice? And, what kind of interaction skills, values and vision do we need to foster so that each person is capable and part of weaving a healthy social fabric? Do our sad norms and the national lack of understanding impact even the most enlightened communities?

How is it we continue to allow to prevail the antithesis of models needed for creating a healthy tapestry strong enough to hold us safe? How is it we let far too many fall through a badly woven one?? Simply ignoring or picking at threads in need of mending doesn't work. Yet there are testaments to the power that love, visionary courage, positive action, and outstanding intelligent writing can have! The impact of the many caring people that model noble action and stellar programs, while too rare, shine bright in an otherwise dark media sky are felt and matter every day.

After a school shooting a year **before** Columbine,¹ the disturbing complicity in such violence by what we as a culture teach with both our paradigms and the glut of negatives we present, and by what we ignore was heart-breakingly evident (never a surprise to me, yet always alarming and desperately disappointing). As I was still gut-wrenched by that 1997 shooting, while so many disappointingly remained mystified by its violence, I listened to two radio dialogues which had a profoundly tragic clue in common with each other. And I, once again, was absolutely struck with the non-mention and utter ignorance of their surely-unwanted unwitting collusion with the shooting. As it hits me with every tragic shooting since, so very often now, how **we continue to disregard the common thread that causes such tragedy and what could make it better**.

1. I wrote this then, sent to White House **the afternoon of Columbine** – knowing we could help them cope. But first, gifted to be in a room **with two teens** to hear the immediate T.V. coverage, **one of whom had bought a gun two weeks before**, I just listened ...[see end]

We are so used to, so focused on, getting entertained instead. Hence few would have considered those dialogues to have anything in common; and far fewer, if any, would have seen their connection to the then-also-making-news deadly shooting sprees by youths... **a connection that has been frighteningly and perilously ignored.** Yet, both were a microcosm of our culture that creates and constantly colludes with the now ubiquitous devastation. One was about elite hip men's magazines, and the other was on a national religious conference platform promoting husband dominance and rule, declaring women's only rightful place is in the home (while ironically allowing the importance of that most essential and hardest-job-on-the-planet² to remain so undervalued and under-supported in our culture). But superiority entitlement is far from limited to these two strikingly similar ideologies and attitudes evident in both discussions (no matter how aghast they'd be at the notion of similarity!)... striking, how pervasive in our culture at large: the norm in **all** our institutions, from the home front to the war front, from our family houses to the Congressional and White Houses.

Yet we neither address nor even recognize how most all of us collude in perpetuating the same hurtful ideas with a deadly insidious impact, ultimately inevitably leading to tragedy we've now witnessed over and over. No one in those two dialogues, nor in any mainstream media presentation, talk of how 'what it means to be a man' in our culture affects all men. (and women) ...and what is the price paid. How patriarchal male culture holds sway. Where values of women are from that vantage point, and how maleness is supposed to show itself. It was and is simply an accepted 'given', uncontested, 'the way it is': and they in those dialogues and we continue to unconsciously promote it. That is the heartrending norm: even in places wanting and purporting to enlighten and protect. Look at the university discrimination and sexual assault in the military that many of us have known about for over a decade [and why not known by all?].

Heartbreakingly obvious to me is how our norms tragically led, and continue to inevitably lead, to what has been played out with horrific regularity in youths' killings and other violence, both physical and psychological. **Tragic how the reports on this violence miss that connection ...never** making it. That is if the violence is reported at all. What was painfully evident and a major concern for me 30 years ago is now a sense of absolute urgency.

I live with an urgent longing and belief that **we all deserve so much better** (it's been my work for 39 yrs.). Knowing without doubt, even when I was almost killed 25 years ago, we as a people and a nation are capable of it! **We can stem this violence.** My attack made me know even more so why we must. The desire was never more urgent than 6 years ago when I held the hand of an innocent 19 yr. old as he bled to death from a drive-by shooting done by youth who-got-guns-way-too-easily when-respect-was-too-hard-to-come-by. [see "Francisco"] And now as another took life, altering far more lives than the dead (as was true in all the violence and victim cases I worked with for decades). Each incident resulting from misguided vain attempts to heal or win what not ever the real need or problem. **Every instance begging us to look and see. What's going on? Who are we as a people?**

Having looked long-before-it-became-fashionable at the effects of our social norms and understanding the need for new paradigms, I have seen with regularity how **only when our mostly-undisputed-usually-lauded norm expresses in community tragedy do we even acknowledge such impulses as a negative at all.** Otherwise **the same aggressive dominance is most often glorified.** As a result, now being increasingly adopted by girls and children. And even when it erupts in disaster, I watch most, including 'news', **ignore the real problem and cause;** salivating instead on an orgy of drama, never mentioning society's culpability, on myriad levels. And while I predicted all this decades ago,

2 *with a Masters in Feminist Theory, Therapy and Social Change, I have been on a feminist mission for 39 years, saying almost daily to someone, "Parenting and Teaching are the most important and hardest jobs on the planet." [especially if done well]*

each instance, both news-making tragedy and the small incidents I see constantly, gets me every time, deeply affecting me and dismaying.

Is it even mentioned that the only absolute common denominator of all the mass shooters is being male? What that means, its implications, and how it affects us? Nor do most studies, programs, people and media coverage of these shattering events seem to understand how all men, and women, suffer deleterious effects of our norms that ultimately create the kind of devastation we have been seeing. We can NOT heal the extreme violence until we change what affects all men and all of us in subtle and sometimes severe everyday ways. This is not new. It has not “just happened.” It has been growing to this for a very long time.

But there is good news that I discovered long ago and have witnessed so often: and now recent study has corroborated. While it's true that when men or society hold without question to a stereotypical rigidly-held notion of what a man (or woman) should be and be entitled to, they are at **far** greater risk of becoming abusers (or abused), **even more surely true** is that when any have the courage and are supported to question that insidiously pervasive rigid notion they are at less risk ...**and they are happier!**

Even men abused and bullied as children, even sexually abused, encouraged to challenge the accepted ‘what being a man’ really was, not only did NOT follow the too-often-typical pattern of abused men becoming violent and abusers, they rated higher on scales of well-being and contentment! Even better off and happier than men who had never been abused, but who had never questioned the accepted norm!

The same causal factor and paradigm, depending on what we do with it – blindly follow, or question it and create different paradigms and new possibilities – can lead to two vastly different outcomes. Abuse, stress, & tragedy **OR** happy & safe: **it is our choice.**

Truth stands up to questioning. Yet where do we make it truly safe enough to question? How many even care to? How often do we reach out to others in need? Allow for difference? Or respectfully dialogue with those different from us? [Bravo to those who try!] For there are no two of us exactly alike: not even I of identical heredity as my twin. Does anyone see the ludicrousness of so many purporting to be ‘messengers and supporters of Jesus & God’ being the antithesis of His [Gandhi's, King's, & Mohammed's] message of love, care, acceptance, justice and inclusion? Did not Jesus Himself give us one of the most profound models of questioning norms for the greater good? Demonstrating that love is not always being ‘nice’ but always intends the greatest good, and cares to notice and care for the most vulnerable. Who is accountable for what is being taught, implied and perpetuated as the norm in classrooms, worship rooms, media and magazines? Who even questions it?

Perhaps as many celebrate Christ's birth, we can each birth the Christ-spirit into this world, and model the Newtown community and its angels who came to show us that same great gift of love ... even as we desperately wish their time here wasn't far too short: *but enough for us to be moved, privileged and enlightened by it.* Without doubt I know they did not become angels after death; they were already angels come to walk among us – and what an impact they have had. Though my heart again breaks for their loved ones' pain. Their town has honored them as nobly and incredibly as I've ever seen. Now how are we all going to? I believe it begins not in media sensationalism and histrionics, but in the quiet of our heart and the commitment we each make.

We have not heard our kids enough; too often too many put too much priority over them. We have not heard their crying out. We as a country have NOT noticed that for too long they are too often terrified and feel insignificant and impotent in a world of overwhelm, even very privileged kids. Given what I was seeing over three decades ago, I predicted that if our paradigms were left overlooked kids would be overwhelmed, shut down, drop out, become bullies, act out, and it would be a nightmare. It is.

We ignore the blinding obvious fact that the loudest and most consistent model of communication presented and hyped everywhere in our culture is gunpower, cockpower and dominance: with its enormous capacity to communicate, be heard, create an instant feeling of one-up power-over [the bedrock tenet of male culture, displayed with alarming increase by females, and still the predominantly touted norm in business success, reality shows, and our foreign policy], promoted as what's needed to effect enormous change whether in a school lunchroom, legislative backroom, or corporate boardroom. But again, is it the change we want? And is it really a change at all? If becoming dominant and 'in charge' is the only option for feeling heard, safe, valued, and okay, are we willing to pay the price for his self-esteem? **And where did he get the idea that was the answer, solution and cure?!**

Individuals capable of caring – thankfully stepping up to do so -- cannot always ameliorate the effects of a mental health, educational, or foster system that has caused too much damage (*for kids and workers alike*) and been lacking understanding and resources for decades if not centuries (*recent mean-spirited greedy legislators and the funders that bought them have robbed even granny's fund as well as the disabled while leaving ostentatious luxury and their need-for-it-to-be-one-up intact*), much less override an entire social system that follows a damaging norm which impedes caring and abides bullying (*don't believe me, just watch t.v.*). Indeed we exploit dominance and diminishment on prime-time and video games: the constant priming needed to groom and recruit those aggressive enough to protect private wealth interests. 'Protection' often paid for by taxpayer dollars and the cost of our children's lost lives.

"Safety equals distance" and "fear is not being in-control": boys have long been familiar with these malevolent paradigms and one-up-manship. Now the virus has spread to girls, taught to believe it will make them safe and more important ...teaching girls aggressive self-defense (while never addressing the war on women that necessitated it), without also teaching and truly uplifting 'caring' to boys or, sadly now, girls, could only have led to an escalation of that war and violence. Kids, especially the shooters, are not doing this as a result of having too many choices. Nor because they've been met with being made to feel valued or taught models such as egalitarian respect-full relationships: connection to their own core, worth or the ability to cope and choose the path right to them; not because they were heard and helped to process ALL the possibilities and their potential consequences; **but because they felt they had NO choice!**

And when the only choice someone sees is death, what does that say about our society?? About how we care for each other, especially for the vulnerable and different; about keeping us safe; about freedom of choice and equal opportunity!?! To a degree we are all responsible. Even women, for accommodating hurtfulness and diminishment at our expense or emulating likewise without speaking up for ourselves, our values, our worth, **for each other**, and for the sons and men we love! -- in an assertive caring feminist way, not the arrogant aggressive way I see too much of now: not just in male culture and the glut of trash-talk and so-called funny shows [*excuse me if I find little humorous in models of bullying and inflicting pain*], but in far too many teenage girls as well, picking up on that pervasive worst model by design to disempower rather than building on and sharing our best. For not having stood up enough for and shared our knowing of the **value of vulnerability** and **the importance of nurturance** no matter who does it (what has-been-mostly-women's important hard work – not just "staying at home" – nor is it unessential duties in an office or classroom). For not

celebrating our strengths that are loving, rewarding and **life-supporting... not life-taking**. Also at fault are those who have failed to understand the essential value of these attributes and diminished both women and men – for is not “a girl” the biggest putdown a male can be called, a favorite choice of army sergeants and schoolyard bullies alike for inflicting humiliation. And we wonder why boys choose aggression and dominance over their hurt and fear? Yet in all the years of my work and the hundreds I’ve asked, not one person wants to live in a world void of nurturance.

Our inability to appreciate the vital truth that vulnerability is requisite for love requiring courage,* and our failure to validate it, instead putting obsessive value on dominance, image, and being ‘in control’, for sure played a part in the fact that heroic rescue workers in the Oklahoma bombing could not, for over a year, allow themselves the help available to rescue them. Could not accept others’ chance to return the favor to help them: not even one of them! Until too many of their lives fell apart. Our inability and our narrow model of heroic restrained the media from acknowledging that 9/11 rescue workers are sick and dying from lack of needed equipment and care, and especially lacking needed truth. Just as rescuers in Katrina’s aftermath and our troops suffered. And continue to.

In countless workshops, classes, men’s and women’s groups, as well as on-on-one sessions I’ve led, the issue of what is valued and validated comes up ...and all have been deeply affected. So many hurt by it. And even those privileged by it pay a price.

In a country known round the globe as violent, where more than 10 women a day end up in body bags at the hands of their partners alone, and 34 human beings a day are killed with guns, we think the solution to this violence now spilling out of our homes and off our screens into our streets, workplaces, and schools that terrifies us all is a “war on crime,” “a war on drugs,” and now a “war on terror”³: more control, more prisons, more guns, and more dominance. When the answer lies in valuing and teaching qualities and skills that have nothing to do with either war or control.

Are we innocent in the fact that boys found it better to shoot out their pain than to share it and seem soft, vulnerable, not in-control? (have we even addressed how ‘in-control’ is what they aimed to be? what they were really aiming for.) A psychologist interviewed after the Omaha shooting said it could not be predicted that boys would “decide to trade in their irrelevance” and shoot. *[I thought, my God, do you hear yourself?!]* since when is any human being irrelevant?! And signs **were** strikingly obvious. Do we only attend to need and vulnerability when it is ours or keeps us safe? Do we miss what will come back round to us? Do we demand better avenues of care even if we ourselves don’t need it? It’s no wonder men want to ‘join up’ when the only place too many men truly bond, belong and let their guard down with each other is in war or in gangs: myriad forms from ghetto gangs to the White House gangs, all touting the ludicrously antithetical notion of violence as strength and the solution for keeping safe. Saying “if you’re not with us, you’re against us.” Driving people to fear and seeing too many against them instead of seeing a need to outreach with caring. When over 80% of the world’s conflicts have been solved by dialogue, diplomacy, aid, understanding.

And women have not expected (much less insisted ...or dared hope) that men, not submit, but learn and celebrate life-supporting, nurturing ways to **work together** – including together with other men – in ways that hold potential for positive change and healthy productivity ...**for too many are surely dying from the ignorance of this.**

When the heart dies the rest goes sooner rather than later. We have a pandemic of hungry hearts. It could be the most important and easiest epidemic we ever treated. So many are dying for **CONNECTION**, no matter what the cost,

³ *[now there’s a metaphor! if only we truly did that! end and heal people’s terror and fear! instead we miss the reality and fact that “war is terror”⁴]* ⁴ MIT professor & most sought after and interviewed academic around the globe

in a world with too few real connections. Hearts warped by lack of connection. And surely wanting to matter in a world that values each one's inherent humanity far too little. In the face of such substantial evidence, and given desperate longing, confusion, shunning, fear, enough neglect and damage **results in believing no safe harbor of acceptance exists**. Ending in disastrous consequences.

Boys' shootings, like bullying and the disturbing dumping of newborns by girls, are the result and manifestation of their inability to feel safe enough and important enough to state what they need, to ask for help, or know better. And surely not enough sense of other options: not enough sense of hope, nor enough responsibility to themselves and others. Have adults not ignored the pain of those unable yet **desperate to connect and belong**? Taught them to test rather than to know thought-full-ness; cut so many needed services ignoring the costs of doing so, with more cuts now proposed. And then tried THOSE ABANDONED KIDS as adults for OUR adult failure? Ignored modeling positive ways and teaching them how?⁵ Failed to insist media present stellar rather than bottom-of-the-barrel pathetic models? Have we seen how shows full of aggression, put-downs and bullying are cheap humor and not amusing? But now get emulated constantly by kids, an infectious virus. When the epidemic of hungry hearts could be the easiest epidemic we've ever cured. One member of a school committee considering my "POSITIVE POWER for Kids" TM proposal in 1997 said, "Oh, that is so radical!" I used to quip, "yeah real radical, 'Communication: How to be clear, assertive and kind' " ...such a radical notion!" Till now such ignorance has indeed made it true; to be kind and assertive rather than arrogant and aggressive **is** now a radical notion. How profoundly sad. And how predictable.

Look around; how many shining examples do you see, in television? magazines? video and the internet? It's a testament to the power of grace and love that there are those still valiantly shining; who've withstood being crowded out by even more that only beget the ignorance, bullying and greed now so rampant. When was the last time you took action to call for better examples? Or modeled a loving way yourself for children? Thank you if you did: heartfelt thanks and gratitude!

Too common are taunting comments that are not real connection nor is it reaching out with compassion, but rather superiority, bolstering one's own ego or eliminating one's own discomfort – about difference, not understanding another's cultural norms, or the different world of mental illness. Avoiding them into isolation is no better. Do we even make understanding how it is for the physically differently-abled to navigate the world and how simply we can assist in that often-exhausting challenge part of basic curriculum? How do so many graduate not knowing or caring that those diagonal blue lines in a handicap spot are needed to accommodate walkers, unseen pain, or for wheelchair lifts to emerge, not their empty shopping cart convenience? Much less understanding those with emotional challenges and brain injury in a patriarch-dominated culture that ridicules feelings and differentness as weakness especially for boys and men. When the real truth is, as Marge Piercy wrote, "what comforts us is people valuing us for our strength and the weakness from which it issues, lightning from a cloud. Lightning stuns. In rain the clouds disperse. Only water of connection remains, flowing through us. Strong is what we make each other. Until we are all strong together [rather than apathetic and feigning impotence], a strong wo[man] is strongly afraid."

Because we have not looked at how we got to this, not even now as finally the mainstream listens to what some have long been urging and the dialogue at least begins focused solely on the symptom [of guns] rather than the cause, does not preclude us beginning to ask the right questions. What is the need for guns? What is requisite for love? What

5 *'To Sir With Love' not teaching the test. As I told Mr. Poitier, "it's all we need to know ,it should be mandatory viewing for parents & educators."*

do we want? Notice? Miss out on? How do we dialogue with compassion? Make all welcome and safe? How does someone make it out of home and high school without being made to feel safe? Valued? Without knowing how to be inclusive? Without knowing how to connect with someone with autism, physical difference, LD, or emotional challenge? Without understanding how an inculcated sense of entitlement to acquire, possess, and be dominant affects not only bullying, but world politics and global warming? And being unaware how important it is to know one's job matters to and affects someone? Because it does. Those postal boxes and airline luggage carry things precious to someone. Or they used to when they could trust. When will we question games, media, and gender norms that are only useful for making killing machines, bullies, greed mongers, sharp shooters, or fearful obedient subservients?

Torture and rape being the “the weapon of choice” of militias in Kosovo, Darfur, and now of our own troops in Iraq and Afghanistan against large numbers of their own fellow troops and innocent civilians is neither an anomaly nor just chance. Was there another path for these rash of young shooters to see being touted as much as a ‘hero’ whipping out his sexual dominance, his revolver and being in charge? “Vulnerability” and “collaboration” were not even in my spell check for God’s sake!! **Without those requisites for love and care what kind of communities can we hope to create? Without it what ARE we teaching?** Is the proof in the pudding?

Ask any of the friends and family of those lost, or of the kid shooters, a decade into their life sentences **if they are grateful for the guidance and the lessons?**

Then ask yourself if you are willing to do what IS possible for better? If you are willing to bring a piece of true humanity and love into this world... to one person today? Willing to foster a sense of belonging, collaboration, and connection to one desperate for it: to a country and world hungry for it? Willing to hold that vision with abiding faith? For surely we can’t do it without you: without each other, each one of us making a difference, making it possible.

Or does what we’ve usually valued, that old dominance-fear paradigm, still have its hold on you? **If you don’t believe a caring world is possible... how could you expect him to?**

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first edition: © Copyright 1997 Susan M. Satya, M.A. [it was a page & a half then! lord, it’s grown with each event & the urgency of it!]

Note: Originally written after a school shooting **one year before** Columbine: re-edited for too many tragedies since. **And now, tragically still true today.**

-
- 1 *I faxed this to the White House **the afternoon of Columbine (and after Newtown)**— knowing we could help them cope. But even before doing so, I was blessed to hear immediate T.V. coverage **in a room with two teens (one of whom had bought a gun two weeks before***), I just listened to them react: saying how they’d “have done it better”...and only after listening did I begin a dialogue with them asking them questions, “what would **you** get out of it?”, etc. and only then gave them a reality check about consequences and prison life; thanking God -- that I’d trusted my intuition about needing to be there -- that I’d been there across the room from them to hear them and to talk to them right as the reports broke in, as they first reacted, and -- that my work and life had been about addressing such crisis and brought me years before to Rahway Prison to meet the lifers [who did the program and documentary “Scared Straight”] so I was able that day of Columbine to score the last point and any credibility with the sarcastic surly gun-buyer-half-step-away-from-being-a-shooter-teen who could only think to retort to my dialogue with his friend, “You’ve never been in a high security prison.” “Well, as a matter of fact I have. And oooh, would they like you two pretty boys...oooh, sweet meat!...” Must have worked, he never hurt anyone, even himself as I feared; and went on to be an accomplished film guy and business owner! That day, I walked away from them thanking God I was led there.. and **went straight to this essay, & sent it off.** * solidly suburban upscale middle class family, his mom a teacher, yet with issues not addressed*
 2. *It was a page and half then, with **only one word in bold: connection.** [pg 2 then!] The antidote. I told them that day. Consultants hired by Columbine **took 2 yrs** to say, “It all comes down to 3 words: connection, connection, connection.” I often wonder **what if** what I told them had been listened to that day? ... instead of ignoring it.*

*S U S A N M A U R E E N S A T Y A, M. A.***Abbreviated BIO**

SUSAN M. SATYA, M.A., FOUNDER & EXEC. DIRECTOR OF CATALYSTS FOR CHANGE,

IS A

LIFE COACH, BUSINESS & DIVERSITY CONSULTANT, SPEAKER, INTUITIVE, & SEMINAR LEADER

SPECIALIZING IN

DIVERSITY, POTENTIAL, PARADIGM SHIFT, GENDER ISSUES, STRESS MANAGEMENT, CONFLICT RESOLUTION,

& CREATING **POSITIVE** CHANGE, INTERACTIONS & RESULTS.

SUSAN HAS DIRECTED SEVERAL

MENTAL HEALTH, VICTIM SERVICE, COUNSELING, & HUMAN SERVICE PROGRAMS;

PRESENTED SEMINARS & TRAININGS NATIONWIDE;

SHE HAS LED LIFE COACHING GROUPS: MEN'S GROUPS [YUP! GREAT GUYS], WOMEN'S, & MIXED GROUPS;

& BEEN A MEMBER OF THE FACULTY OF THE NEW SCHOOL UNIVERSITY,

AS WELL AS THE FACULTIES OF THE NEW YORK OPEN CENTER, & OMEGA INSTITUTE;

AND WAS A TRAINER FOR NEW YORK CITY MAYOR'S OFFICE

"INCREASE THE PEACE PROJECT"

ESTABLISHED BY MAYOR DAVID DINKINS

SUSAN IS HERSELF A SURVIVOR OF MAIMING ATTEMPTED MURDER 29 YRS AGO.

AND WROTE: "GUIDELINES FOR HONORING GRIEF" 36 YRS AGO

WHICH GREW OUT OF HER WORK WITH A CONNECTICUT MOTHER WHOSE CHILD WAS MURDERED

"CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE"

321 DIAMOND STREET,, STE. 6, REDONDO BEACH, CA 90277

310 ■ 228 ■ 6223

424 ■ 634 ■ 9940 CELL

FYI: Jan. 2005

I hung the following memorial to a very young man after his murder in 2001, and each year since he was shot to death: a loved one who is still thought of so often. I stopped when he crashed, held his hand as he died four years ago - Jan. 31, 2001 - my efforts to stop his bleeding-to-death insufficient to the carnage. He was just driving along doing errands for his boss on his first full-time job as **youth who-got-guns-way-too-easily when-respect-was-too-hard-to-come-by** shot him three times.

As I was about to write the attached, serendipitously or ironically, I came across the newspaper with the funeral of Samantha Runnion, another murdered child: though unlike Francisco and his mother & his shooters, she was white & blonde. The stark contrast of what Francisco received was utterly striking. **Francisco got "not even a sound bite"** as the astute, caring homicide detective put it with heartfelt sincere dismay [unlike his callous partner] as I went to the precinct to give a statement (let them know mine were the only prints on him/the car after the crash, and see if I needed to be concerned about the blood that covered much of me). **Every child and every mother deserve the notice & outpouring of concern** that Samantha and her mom received, not just blonde, blue-eyed children. People of color deserve to have their cries heard and answered. And I think of how those who did this to Francisco hurt themselves and their own community! Diminishing their own property values (in a neighborhood full of quality built homes now undervalued due to violence) & their own prospects for an abundant, prosperous life. Hurting themselves. For what??

Yet there were those who did care & did make a positive difference: people who stopped that day "he was simply in the wrong place at the wrong time and they mistook him for a gang member". Though it was right place just wrong actions. After days for me only being able to wonder and to ponder who he was, the officer said, "If it makes a difference, he wasn't a gang member." **I assured him it didn't.** That much I'd been sure of.

Either way he was the human being whose hand I held, whose life I wanted to save; and someone's son. Like that day, every time that thought breaks my heart. He crashed here in front of Venice High and his 19 years of life were ended in his boss's SUV on the job he was so excited about having: to save for his own dream, his first car.

As musician Blue O'Connell, who plays for the dying asked me, "What did you feel?" "I felt so sad for his family & those who loved him...and for those who did this, & angry at them & especially at our society which created this. And like you said, Blue, it was sacred & gratifying. I felt inadequate, scared, & so glad I was with him...in a way difficult to describe to the others who did not go up to him, I felt like I was fortunate to be there. I am lucky I could feel his spirit gone free... still very present and alive. [also hard to explain to those who don't experience it]." And I was so aware of a flood-gate of feeling as I drove home (& callous police finally arrived after he'd died), **so aware of the value of life, no matter who he was, & how I had NO idea who he was, & how he could be anybody** (& therefore in a way everybody). Yet though 'stranger', he was not stranger in a profound way impossible to explain: there was such deep sadness: for his family (the major victims), along with the kids watching, for the situation, & the soul of a city & country who don't 'get it' yet, & therefore we don't deal with this in any way that would stop it...heal it.

Two years ago, a 16 yr old Venice High student, Felipe, stopped the morning I was again hanging the following [an annual task] to see what I was doing. We talked quite a bit. After I let him know Francisco crashed in front of me ironically just minutes after I'd sent off an essay "Who Am I To Change the World"© to a FL paper, a prelude to my speech "The Power to Make a Difference"™ that I gave that Feb. 2001, Felipe ardent and excited said as we talked, **"When I see something wrong, I speak up and I do something about it.** ...like I was at the [peace] rally in Westwood." Yea! Felipe!! I know, me, too. **I invite you all to follow his lead!** (those deaths matter, too.) I was so glad to be there & be able to validate Felipe! it was nice for me also. Important to simply stop to talk to each other...and for adults to mentor, talk with & listen to kids, even just one kid.

And Felipe made a difference to me!... He made me feel hopeful. Feel validated for still caring about Francisco's death.. **As did all those who stopped to stand vigil around Francisco and me that day,** their presence so strongly felt, as that innocent man-boy succumbed his Spirit, leaving all those here who loved him.

*I had no idea then who he was. ... I knew none of this when I jumped out of my car to run to his.
I am so glad I did.*

FRANCISCO

*It is hard to believe that it has been four years since
you died here,*

Shot and killed in a useless & unjust act of violence.

(How American ...in your new land of promise)

You live still in the hearts
Of all those who loved and cared about you,
those who miss you dearly & sadly still.

You made a difference in every life you touched,
including mine, a stranger who stopped
to hold your hand as you died here.

Your youth, your innocent face, your spirit I felt
(even after it left your body),
your bleeding to death, (no matter how I tried to stop it)
touched me deeply.

The friendship & connection I now have
with your family, such wonderful, good people,
because I reached out that day 3 yrs ago, is a **gift** in my life.

You were Sara's kid brother, Stephanie's uncle, Armando's brother-in-law,
& **your mother's 'baby' boy.**

I pray that all of us will look around &
reach out to get to know those around us,
to see what we have to offer each other
(see we have more to gain than lose).

And, **before it is too late, get to know each human being,**
as I wish I'd had the chance to know you,

& see how each fellow human needs
Love & help & respect & belonging

just like you did
just like those who killed you did.

And **we each have the power to give it!**

Perhaps, if we reach out to each other,
with real love, genuine interest, consideration & honesty,
no one will sink so low, become so frightened
that they cowardly do the wrong thing
**in order to "belong" with those who care so little about them as to have them
sell their soul ... & their lives away.**

I pray those who did this hurtful act of murder
have reached out to & allowed in
the **real love** that is available to them
& have **allowed it to turn their lives around ...**

so they will never again feel so frightened that they
diminish themselves & hurt anyone.

**It is up to each of us
to make each other feel that safe.**

For those who do this are people who are frightened: truly frightened ...
of what others think, of standing on their own & doing the right thing.
Misguided by false hype about being a real man. Real men are great.

"Greatness lies not in being strong, but in the right use of strength." - H. W. Beecher

**LOVE IS STRONGER
THAN ANY OTHER FORCE.**

**We can each honor Francisco,
A very young man who mattered**

By sharing kindness, encouragement, love & joy with others

Like he did in his life

It's what he'd want of us. It's who his wonderful family is.

It's what would have kept him safe.

It's what he wants for others now.

Every **kindness**, Every time of **reaching out**,
Every **smile**, **makes us all safer**, more blessed.

God Bless you, Francisco, *Love, Susan*

God Bless your family, still so sad & missing you
God Bless you who cared enough to stop & read this,
God Blesses the World.
[yes, She/He does! no exceptions!]

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*SUSAN, CATALYSTS FOR CHANGE, 310 ♥ 228 ♥ 6223
& FEEL FREE TO CALL AND SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS,*

INCLUDING ANY YOU WANT PASSED ON TO FRANCISCO'S FAMILY

Martha Alvarez

From: Eliza Feinberg <eliza.r.feinberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 2:34 AM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on Bruce's Beach Task Force Report and Resolution of Apology

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hello,

My name is Eliza Feinberg and I am a lifelong resident of Manhattan Beach. I grew up in the Tree section, went to Grandview Elementary School, MBMS, and Mira Costa High School. Having lived here my entire life, I can confidently say that there are systems of racism alive and well in Manhattan Beach. This does not make me love my hometown any less, but it certainly drives me to want to improve it. It is never enough to simply acknowledge wrong-doings of the past if there is no movement made to fix the errors and prevent them happening again. That is why I fully support the Report and Resolution of Apology created by the Bruce's Beach Task Force and I hope City Council does as well.

I am disappointed, if not surprised, to see the pushback from other members of the community. People want to deny any presence of racism to free themselves from the burden of responsibility. I think it is important to note that even if a person does not think that they are actively racist, by resisting the progress of anti-racist movements they are passively supporting racism in Manhattan Beach. Doing nothing can be just as damaging as doing something obviously bad.

By supporting this resolution created by the task force, Manhattan Beach is giving itself an opportunity to grow and improve. Shouldn't we all want that for our city? I hope City Council makes the right choice and continues to support the Bruce Beach Task Force in the excellent work they have been doing.

Thank you very much,
Eliza Feinberg

Martha Alvarez

From: Susan M. Satya <ceosusan2010@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 2:24 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Climate Change: The Power of Love, Grace & Courage. Speaks to social climate change you're addressing. An essay speaking to an issue in urgent need of being addressed, yet there's much hope!
Attachments: CLIMATE CHANGE.doc; PERFECT SENSE (5) sent 2019.doc

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Council, I thought you might find the attached essay, "Climate Change" helpful.

----- Forwarded message -----

Dear Editor,

It is even more urgent that people address the issue in ways most can hear: as so many have not.

The attached "Climate Change" speaks to RACISM and an epidemic of violence - too costly.

Thank you for your consideration: all the people of color I have shared it with have asked me to send it out, not give up, as have white folks. It is timely for MLK Day & the Women's March.

Blessings and much regard, Suze

[Please hit "enable editing" to get correct spacing [sorry not tech savvy enough on this new device to correct otherwise, and these 2 issues are urgent: lives hang in the balance]

"Hope is Good. BELIEF is Better. & POSITIVE ACTION makes it happen."

© Susan M. Satya

Susan M. Satya, M.A.

Life Coach * Potential & Diversity Consultant * Intuitive Coach
Creating **POSITIVE** Change for Individuals, Community & Organizations
321 Diamond Street, Ste 6, Redondo Beach, CA 90277
310-753-1767 *

**Note: this is a brand new ph#,
replaces one on essay**

Martha Alvarez

From: Joe Devine <joeandbillie@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 11:59 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BBTF

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear council members,

I have been a resident of Manhattan Beach since 1975. I raised two daughters here and have always loved our town and community. I am so taken back by the current events that have occurred in our town over the last year, not even mentioning the current pandemic. I have been shocked to see our town boarded up and people protesting. I have been labeled "white privilege" and am being accused of committing a crime that I did not commit. I empathize with people that have been discriminated against but I have to say that I don't know anyone that has not been discriminated against in some way, shape or form.

I believe an acknowledgement of Bruce's Beach history is important for all and a plaque should remain at the park. I would support a new plaque with more information regarding the history and maybe a Bruce's Beach Day recognition.

On a final note. There are two types of people in our world. Givers and Takers. Givers have to set boundaries because Takers never do.

Boundaries need to be set, city council. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Billie Devine

Martha Alvarez

From: Kim's Misc Mail <kcc.misc@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 11:49 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please stop and listen to the actual majority

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

I truly feel that the BBTF has just tried to create a divide within our lovely city. My friend group consists of both Americans and Non-Americans. Notice I am not judging my friends by the color of their skin. Everyone is welcome in my home. We do not consider each other or our city as 'racist' and judge each other by their souls.

My family historically had property "taken" away by eminent domain in a different state. We purchased other property with the money we received and invested what we did not spend on replacement property. Are we finically in a worse or better position because of it? I can't really say. But, the money went into investment elsewhere. We have paid taxes on the replacement property and investment income. All of this is a slippery slope and just creating divide.

Please stop the nonsense of trying to give back eminent domain property to the original owners...you would set a precedent that would destroy our country.

Kim
USA: [+1-321-947-2930](tel:+13219472930)
Sent from my iPad

Martha Alvarez

From: Joe Devine <joeandbillie@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 11:42 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear council members,

I have lived full time in Manhattan Beach now for 46 years. I consider it my home. I have known about Bruce's Beach from almost the day I moved here. Stories about it have been written in many public media sources over the years. I would be shocked if any one of you members had not heard about it prior to this current uproar. What is disturbing to me at this time is a task force that is looking at the history of Bruce's Beach and has not obtained the court record of the the original decision. If they did do their diligent work and obtained the court's record and possible minutes, this should be published for the community to read. Going back almost 100 years and changing court orders or rewriting history is absolutely nuts. How far back do we go. Do we go so far as to give the Indians their land back?

This task force has moved so far off course. It was set up to investigate the history of Bruce's Beach and now has evolved to try and solve problems of society at large. As a citizen of Manhattan Beach, I ask you all to hear the findings, publish them again in a public media for all to read and move on. As I said earlier, this is old news that has resurfaced and is being sensationalized in the light of all that is happening in our country today. It is then time to dissolve the BBTF being that it has done what it was set up to do. I do not want to set up a permanent oversight committee. I also do not want you to apologize to anyone in any way that includes me. I did not live live here or was alive at the time this happened nor did I have any relatives here.

This is a wonderful city but is was not so wonderful back at the beginning of the 1900's. Both Inglewood and Compton were the booming towns that the up and comers were moving to. Those that could not afford to move there, had do move to cheaper areas such as Manhattan Beach.

My last concern goes back to the court record of the original hearing of this case. If the BBTF did not attain the original record, I would consider the BBTF inept and would question what they did find. Also, is it true that white families also had their land taken at the same time?

Sincerely,

Joe Devine

Martha Alvarez

From: Jane Guthrie <janeguthrie@me.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 11:10 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruces' Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council,

First and foremost, I find the two page ad in The Beach Reporter offensive and misleading. And the fact that it is not signed speaks volumes.

One hundred years ago, this property was taken from a group of people because of the color of their skin. They deserve an apology.

And, in the current environment, having a Task Force in place to provide a consistent monitoring of the situation, seems like a smart plan going forward.

The city need to be open and transparent with the public as we work to resolve this issue.

Respectfully yours,
Jane Guthrie
417 23rd Place, MB 90266

Martha Alvarez

From: Amanda Charney <amandavcharney@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 11:08 PM
To: City Clerk; List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

I am writing to support the important work of this task force and the continuation of such action in the future. Growing up in Hermosa Beach and attending Mira Costa, race was never something I was asked to think much of. We were taught about racism in school as a part of "history", something that happened in the past but fortunately is all over and done with in our modern world.

I have learned a lot in the decade since graduating from MCHS. I understand how challenging it can be to be confronted with a reality that is unpleasant to face: that America's problems with race are not personal, individual moral failings, but systemic and pervasive issues. Reading through the disproportionate backlash and shockingly out of touch ad placed in the Beach Reporter (naming systemic racism as a "false pretense", accusing those in the task force of "using race to grab power"), I was saddened but not surprised. These harsh words are echoed by many today who feel threatened by recent challenges to the status quo. I agree—it would be nice to live in a world where we don't see color, where someone's ethnicity and background don't effect the ease at which they move through life. That is unfortunately not the world we live in yet.

2020 was a challenging year for every American, and people on a global scale. Some very vocal citizens of Manhattan Beach have demonstrated that they feel incredibly threatened and frightened by this objectively tame initiative meant to provide justice and recognition, and commit to working toward a more just and equal society in the future. They rage against...what? An adjustment of a narrative, the editing of a plaque in a park, and an apology for harm done. What they really rage against is their own fear, and fight only for their own self image as good people.

I hope the council can look beyond these deeply personal reckonings to the bigger picture. This is the way forward: not ignoring our past, but acknowledging it, making amends, and finding ways to prevent further harm in the future. It is a challenge, but I know the good folks in the Beach Cities are up for it. Even those who fear it and tell us that they are beyond it.

This task force was created for a reason. Was it out of condescension, to pacify the people who were speaking up about racial injustice, to tide them over until the movement "died down" and the community could return to the status quo? Or was it to take meaningful steps forward, to commit to making our beloved community even better and more inclusive?

I hope it is the latter, and I hope you will move forward with their recommendations and actions.

Thank you,

Amanda Charney
Mira Costa Alumnus

Martha Alvarez

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Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 11:08 PM
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Thank you,

Amanda Charney
Mira Costa Alumnus

Martha Alvarez

From: Michelle and Neil Erickson <MandNErickson@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 10:54 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City Council Members,

As you consider the recommendations of the Task Force, I hope you will keep it simple.

Acknowledge the facts without taking responsibility for actions which occurred so many years ago. Times have changed.

A new art piece would be appropriate to inform visitors of the history of the property previously owned by the Bruces near the beach.

Bruce's Beach is near my home and I can tell you anyone who says it's wasted space has not spent time there. It is a great pleasure to see the diversity of people who enjoy this beautiful green space every day of the week.

Thank you for your consideration and service to our community. I think it's time to thank the Task Force and move forward with new ways to bring together the residents of Manhattan Beach.

Michelle Erickson
2904 Highland Avenue

Martha Alvarez

From: Anna Moss <annieamoss@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 10:11 PM
To: City Manager; List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Task Force Recommendations

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Our city needs to apologize for its racist past. There are still incidents of aggression today against anyone perceived as different. The Trump populists are gearing up to protest the teaching of cultural identity awareness. If we can't even teach diversity to our youth in schools, this cycle will be repeated generation after generation. To claim these people are NOT racist is ridiculous. We absolutely need to keep the Task Force going in order to make amends and move forward into this new era.

Anne Moss

Martha Alvarez

From: Gabriela Kula <gkula@sandiego.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 10:09 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Listen to Bruce Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hello,

I have been a resident of Manhattan Beach my entire life. I have been a woman of color my entire life. It is so extremely important in working to build strong foundation and future in Manhattan Beach for acceptance that the city listens to the task force designed to address this problem as opposed to one city council member. There is strength in numbers and people working together. The statement of manhattan beach should not just represent how the white members of the community feel, but how everyone feels. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Gabriela Kula

Martha Alvarez

From: Irene Ralyea <ireneralyea@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 10:03 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BBTF

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

BBTF has to be terminated before it will create more divisions and unrest in our City.

Sent from my iPhone

Martha Alvarez

From: Joanne Hadley <joanne@hadleybiz.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 9:49 PM
To: List - City Council; City Manager
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force must continue unhindered.

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear MB City Council,

I support the work of The Bruce's Beach Task Force because it will strengthen our city (not the opposite!)

An art piece and an acknowledgement of the wrongs of the past are a good start, but there is room for much more to be done. Healing and wisdom come from making meaning of the past. Our city needs to acknowledge what happened and let the Bruce's Beach Task Force continue their important work so that the MB can respond thoughtfully.

Nextdoor is one place I have been seeing a lot harmful, insensitive remarks and false narratives. I am afraid some of these crude, rude and loud voices might manage to derail the purpose of the Task Force. They suggest that MB might be labeled a 'racist city' if the task force is allowed to continue. I couldn't disagree more.

The Task Force must be allowed to address this racist incident, give it the time and nuanced thought it requires, and respond. We are grappling with an ugly incident in the history of the city and that the solution is complex. There are lots of voices to hear from and many ideas to sort through. The truth must be uncovered, faced and properly dealt with.

In time our whole country may be learning about the good work MB did to set things straight and to improve community and race relations going forward. Our city will be admired for our courage in this matter.

MB must do the right thing and let the Task Force continue with its mission. Please do all you can to stand up for this noble group.

Sincerely,

Joanne Hadley

763 33rd Street MB 90266

Martha Alvarez

From: Ray Joseph <Ray@rjfinehomes.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 9:44 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No on All Bruce's Beach Items

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

OMG, I have been hearing from people unsolicited on how angry they are over the Bruce's Beach Task Force.
PEOPLE ARE AFRAID TO CALL IN AND BE TARGETS OF BLM

1. They are angry there is a task force
2. They want No Votes on everything
3. They do not want an apology that could be fuel for a lawsuit from the Bruce family.
4. They do not want any changes
5. They do not want any liability coming out of it.
6. They do not want any protests coming out of it
7. They do not want websites going on forever
8. They do not want oversight committees
9. They do not want changes to anything at Bruce's Beach

Don't you remember our town boarded up over BLM. Businesses could finally open up and BLM protests shut it down. I will never forget what it did to our town, businesses, kids, and friends. Truly sad.

We are not a racist town. We don't have racist police. People feel this paints Manhattan Beach as Racist.

Don't forget Reagan's "silent majority." I have never seen people this mad before.

Thanks,

Ray Joseph
Manhattan Beach CA 90266
310-545-7295

Martha Alvarez

From: Elsa Gerard <ehlgerard@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 9:21 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce Beach

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Council members,

I would like to voice my support for council to vote yes for the Bruce Beach Task Force's recommendation of apology to the Bruce Family.

Since the article about Bruce Beach ran in the New York Times, friends and family have been reaching out to ask me if this is my town. I am embarrassed to be a resident of Manhattan Beach. I'm sure none of us want this to be the reputation of the place we live. I believe this a apology will be a first step towards fixing this. We have an obligation to do the right thing.

Elsa Gerard

Sent from my iPhone

Martha Alvarez

From: Alison Chavez <coffeychavez@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 9:01 PM
To: List - City Council; City Manager
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

I implore you to apologize for the racially motivated eminent domain seizure of the Bruce family resort. Please allow the task force to continue. It has not had enough time to do a thorough job. If the task force is disbanded, please agree to a commission on racial and cultural equality. Being branded racists is bad for business.

The divisiveness occurring now, is not because of the task force; it is a small group of folks who are very vocal. The Beach Reporter ad has caused shock and alarm among most of MB; not sympathy for their cause as was their intention. I am appalled that the city council as a whole has not denounced this anonymous "advertisement". The fact that it's anonymous speaks volumes, doesn't it?
Please do the right thing for everyone involved.

Mike Ward
Resident of Manhattan Beach

Martha Alvarez

From: MELINDA MCKINLEY <lindymck@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 8:58 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Council,

As a taxpayer and as a voter in Manhattan Beach, I am asking that the task force concerning Bruce's Beach be disbanded immediately. It is absurd to revisit the decisions made 100 years ago and of which none of us were a part. The plaque, artwork and the acknowledgment of the Bruce Family is enough. Anything beyond that sets a destructive precedence which endangers people of all races and ethnicity that live in our city. Thank you.

Melinda McKinley

Martha Alvarez

From: blaise.um@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 8:57 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Please accept a suitable apology regarding the racially motivated eminent domain seizure of the Bruce family properties, which is factual and healing.

We need to continue the task force which has barely had enough time to do its job. If the task force is disbanded, please agree to a commission for racial and cultural equality which is, at this point, necessary for the town's reputation and continued good will among our neighbors. Being branded racists is bad for business.

The divisiveness occurring now, is not because of the task force; it is a small group of Alt Right folks who are very vocal. The Beach Reporter ad has merely caused shock and alarm among most of MB; not sympathy for their cause as was their intention. I am appalled that the city council as a whole has not denounced this disgusting anonymous "advertisement". The fact that it's anonymous speaks volumes, doesn't it?

Please do the right thing for everyone involved.

Blaise Murekezi
Lifelong resident

Martha Alvarez

From: Taylor Haden <btaylorhaden@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 8:52 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BBTF

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hello,

I am a longtime resident of Manhattan Beach and would like to state the following:

- NO MORE DELAY TACTICS BY THE BRUCE'S BEACH TASK FORCE and Co-Chairs Napolitano and Stern.
- Consider the Report filed by the BBTF as final as of 3/16.
- Dismantle the task force on March 16th, 2021.
- Reject the reports by the BBTF: the history report, the declaration of an apology. And we do not need a Social Justice Commission

Thank you.

Taylor Haden

Martha Alvarez

From: Yvonne Stevens <yvonne@schickler.org>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 8:32 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BBTF

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City Council members,

I applaud you for engaging the task force. Having read their findings, I strongly agree with their approach to further our City's reckoning with its past through an apology and in actively taking steps to further diversity, equity and inclusion opportunities in MB.

I was greatly saddened to read the anonymous ad taken out in the Beach Reporter last week. The ad's painful cry "We are not a racist city", was sadly proof of the opposite by its writers. It's misrepresentations of the task force's findings/recommendations and the facts around the Bruce family's sale of its property were tone deaf. I am embarrassed for the unnamed people behind the ad and hope that their statements are not misconstrued by the media; MB's reputation would be severely tarnished. My greatest hope is that though they claim to be a "network of many", knowing so many of my fellow citizens, I believe they speak for very few of the 35,000 residents of MB.

What are they so afraid of? If we truly are "not a racist city", then what better way to further our efforts toward inclusion than to enact the recommendations of the task force. By doing so, we will continue to improve the diversity, outreach and outlook of Manhattan Beach.

Thanks for your time.

Yvonne Stevens, resident

Martha Alvarez

From: Michael Lebbin <Mlebbin@nupacificbio.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 8:29 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Manhattan Beach is NOT racist!

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Manhattan Beach City Counsel,

As a 35 year resident of Manhattan Beach(MB), I can say, unequivocally, that this is NOT a racist city. I can say that because I would have seen it firsthand. My wife and I raised our three children here as a multiracial couple. We were very active in the community. There was never a sign of bigotry, racism, social bias, or any type of intolerance. I coached teams at nearly every level of sport. My mixed race children attended local public schools and my wife was very active in the classroom and with administration. The experience gave us a comprehensive perspective into the true sole of this city and the families that make it/have made it the best community in all of California to raise a family. Accusations of racism have come from far and wide. They're false! Racism is not a part of my community and I am insulted by those who portray us in this disgusting light. It is incumbent upon the Manhattan Beach City Counsel to see through the noise and rhetoric, stand up to the falsehoods, protect our community, and set the record straight on behalf of our city.

Regards,
Michael Lebbin

Martha Alvarez

From: Christi Hogin <christihogin@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 8:11 PM
To: List - City Council; City Manager; City Clerk; Suzanne Hadley; Hildy Stern; Steve Napolitano; Richard Montgomery; Joe Franklin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach task force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

My name is Christi Hogin (for those I have not met). I have been a resident and business owner in this community for decades. I raised my children here.

I am so proud of the city — our staff and our Councilmembers — for initiating a hard conversation over race. I am proud that you made this effort to explore what reckoning could mean.

I also know that now we find ourselves in a contentious phase of the effort. I know some of you are newly elected and inherited the task force; and I suspect some of you who supported the formation of the task force were hoping for a more constrained approach with a concrete work product.

But, nevertheless, here we are. We have been given a progress report that suggests that the task before us may be greater than re-wording the plaque at Bruce's Beach or installing some art there. And, not to be trite, but those of us who have remodeled homes here (and from the constant construction noise in town that is many of us) often learn that when the work gets started you may uncover hidden rot or broken pipes or other structural issues that made a house that looked OK actually be less sound than it should be. So you decide to do the work necessary to make it right.

I am especially grateful to the task force members for stepping up to help navigate uncharted waters. The task force is made up of members of our community. We know their names. You appointed them. They have met publicly and they have produced meaningful work for your review. The task force members are US not them. And this Council is US too. So I hope we can work together and get this right.

I have a lot of thoughts on this topic but I'll only burden you with two of them.

1. This effort is about our future, not the history

I want to respond to those unsure why we are engaged in this effort at all since the events around Bruce's beach happened long ago and none of us were there so none of us is responsible for those events. It is true that none of us was there and none of us is culpable for the decision to exercise eminent domain in the 1920s.

We are not here tonight just because of what a city council did at the urging of white supremacists 100 years ago. We are here tonight in part because of something that was re-ignited last summer.

We witnessed George Floyd's murder last summer and that horrifying 8 minutes 46 seconds, during which he was casually and mercilessly killed in broad daylight, penetrated the complacency or denial or disbelief harbored by those of us who do not share the experience of African Americans.

Like probably all of you, my family took a lot of walks last summer in search of some relief from quarantine. And Manhattan Beach, like a lot of communities across the country, visibly and emphatically responded to the Black Lives Matter protests that erupted following Mr. Floyd's murder.

In my neighborhood there was a beautiful chalk rendering of George Floyd and the heart wrenching words he uttered during what would be the last 8 minutes of his life.



I saw people had posted the names of other unarmed black men and women would had been shot by police around the country. I saw BLM signs, many hand drawn by children. Not a few. Many families expressed support with those protesting a system that makes Black Americans dramatically more likely to encounter brutality by police and less likely to have opportunities to enjoy the liberties that we think of as the hallmark of being an American.

We are here re-examining our history not to determine if long ago a city council acted under pressure to satisfy racist ends. We are here to explore how we can be anti-racist. How we can use this episode to reinforce our commitment to the opposite outcome than was pursued by our city lo those many years ago.

So the first thing I want to say is that we are not here to be called racist or confess racism. We are here to take steps to keep building an anti-racist community. To create a more welcoming community. To strive toward a more perfect Union.

2. The injustice was the motive, not the money

The second thing I want to address is this notion that because the Bruces and other families including white absentee owners were paid fair market value that no injustice was committed.

Our federal constitution is extremely protective of property rights. The constitution allows the government to force us to be unwilling sellers of our property under TWO conditions. One, the government must pay fair market value for the property it takes. And two, the government may only force us to sell our property for a legitimate government purpose.

The injustice that was perpetrated against the property owners involving Bruce's Beach was not the amount of money they were given but the reason their choice to own property was taken from them. That council, history tells us, succumbed to pressure by white supremacists and did their bidding by taking the property to put an end to the use of the property by Black families. That was unjust.

A couple of decades later the City effectively cured any legal defect in the prior council's use of its power by creating a public park on the property. Thus, putting the City's purchase to public purpose.

So, as I see it, Bruce's Beach offers an opportunity to examine the history, to evaluate ways that we can chart a different course for our community that reflects the re-ignited commitment to inclusion.

Please don't cut and run. Let's see this through.

I know this council is under a lot of pressure. But we have now looked at what succumbing to pressure does. You are not the city council of the 1920s and I know that you are serious people. Please adopt the recommendations of the task force.
Keep making us proud.

—Christi

Sent from my iPad

Martha Alvarez

From: Christi Hogin <christihogin@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 8:11 PM
To: List - City Council; City Manager; City Clerk; Suzanne Hadley; Hildy Stern; Steve Napolitano; Richard Montgomery; Joe Franklin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach task force

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The injustice that was perpetrated against the property owners involving Bruce's Beach was not the amount of money they were given but the reason their choice to own property was taken from them. That council, history tells us, succumbed to pressure by white supremacists and did their bidding by taking the property to put an end to the use of the property by Black families. That was unjust.

A couple of decades later the City effectively cured any legal defect in the prior council's use of its power by creating a public park on the property. Thus, putting the City's purchase to public purpose.

So, as I see it, Bruce's Beach offers an opportunity to examine the history, to evaluate ways that we can chart a different course for our community that reflects the re-ignited commitment to inclusion.

Please don't cut and run. Let's see this through.

I know this council is under a lot of pressure. But we have now looked at what succumbing to pressure does. You are not the city council of the 1920s and I know that you are serious people. Please adopt the recommendations of the task force. Keep making us proud.

—Christi

Sent from my iPad

Martha Alvarez

From: John Schlatter <johnpaulschlatter@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 7:38 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Resident since 1994

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hi all..As stated above, i have been a homeowner in this community for 27 years. We have 5 kids and live on the strand near Bruce's Beach. I take my youngest 3 boys there every weekend to run the hills. In my 27 years living here i have NEVER met anyone that had a hint of racism in their blood. I wasn't raised that way, our 5 kids haven't been raised that way and i don't know anyone living here that feels that way. THAT said, what i have seen in the past couple of years, is crime in the neighborhood escalating-including from our home-people smoking pot in front of our house everyday so we have to close our windows, hundreds of people riding their bikes on the strand (not the bike path) threatening to cut my throat, kill me and my family, threaten my family because i am white and live on the beach, strippers with stripper poles at Bruce's beach which my 4 and 6 year old sons witnessed, dog owners freely walking their dogs on the beach without any interference from anyone, packages stolen from our doorstep, bank robbery at BOA in the MB Village. All of these things have happened on YOUR WATCH. Instead of addressing these alarming issues for local families you're spending time on things that happened 100 years ago. What happened then is wrong. HOWEVER, two wrongs don't make something right. And clearly some of you are wrong if you aren't spending all of your time addressing what is CURRENTLY going on in our community. PLEASE do not tell me you're concerned and doing what you can. That's not true. If you were then things would be getting better not worse which they clearly are. VOTING to approve a letter that says we are racist isn't going to make ANYTHING better. Nor is putting in low income housing at BB. Perhaps if you and your family were personally threatened as my family was it might get your attention. Please do NOT make an escalating situation worse. Thank you for your time...

Martha Alvarez

From: Rachel Judson <rjudson@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 6:51 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] March 16 City Council Mtg: Bruce's Beach

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Mayor & Council:

I recently read this and it seems applicable to Bruce's Beach: Winston Churchill's words, "Of this I am quite sure, that if we open a quarrel between the past and the present, we shall find that we have lost our future."

Please only consider the Factual History Report about the 1920s Bruce Family, plaque and art piece. Please go no further with any other task force recommendations, and please do not approve of the apology. Also, please end the task force at tomorrow's meeting. Their task is complete, and their job is done. Extending the task force, in my mind, is restructuring the overall way our city is governed and akin to making an appointed 2nd council.

Thank you for all you do for the city, and for considering my input.

Rachel Judson
20+ year resident & property owner

Martha Alvarez

From: Debbie Denise <ddmbeach@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 6:44 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hello,

As a resident of Manhattan beach for 16 years, I wanted to write a note to you before the meeting tomorrow regarding the council on Bruce's Beach.

I think the council has done their job and should now be disbanded. Yes to a new plaque, corrected history on our website, AR for those visiting the park. No to giving the land back to the family or additional funds. If the settlement back in 1924 was a good/fair price at the time for the land, let the decision back then stand. If it wasn't, that's a different story.

But there are many people now saying that Manhattan Beach is racist. Yes, there have been incidents. There are incidents everywhere.

I suggest to anyone who's interested, read "How To Be An Anti-Racist" - it's eyeopening. We are all racists in some form. We're not even aware of our racist thoughts most of the time. A caucasian person can be a racist and a black person can be a racist. We should all do our best to be aware of how our racism shows and correct it for the sake of our country and the world.

Thank you,

Debbie Denise

Martha Alvarez

From: Pat Whitehead <pwhitehed@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 6:34 PM
To: List - City Council
Cc: Patricia GDLLASWWhitehead
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Regarding The Bruce's Beach Taskforce

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City Council Members,

I add my voice to the many who are tired of hearing Manhattan Beach vilified in the news, both local and national as well as around the world. Now that more of the facts about the properties that included many homes besides the Bruce's are in the open, please make a decision about the BBTF's report, act on it, and let's move on as a more aware community, more conscious of being kind to our neighbors.

Manhattan Beach does not need a permanent watchdog commission presiding over all aspects of our community, ready to jump at the slightest perceived indiscretion!

Respectfully,

Pat Whitehead

Manhattan Beach Resident since 1963

Leadership Manhattan Beach

MBCC Past President

Community Activist - mostly retired now

PS I would appreciate some kind of acknowledgement so I know this note was received.

Thank you.

Martha Alvarez

From: DOLORES MOLONEY <mbdee@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 6:24 PM
To: List - City Council

I have lived in the South Bay my entire life, and in Manhattan Beach For the last 32 years. In all that time, I have never seen anything Close to racism. This BB task force is redictious, asking money and An apology for something that happened a century ago! and we certainly Don't need a social justice commission. We are a small inclusive town and Welcome everyone.

A 32 year resident!!

Sent from my iPad

Martha Alvarez

From: A Marshall <asarmar5@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 6:19 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Manhattan Beach City Council Members,

I am writing this to speak to the decisions you will be making tomorrow regarding Bruce's Beach, etc.

I support the following,

1. The art, plaque, and history
2. An Apology - I do believe that an apology will also be important, especially one along the lines of what Council Member Stern wrote. I do believe that it needs to be written taking into consideration the different concerns that the community has expressed.
3. An ongoing commission - I support an ongoing commission. I think that it is important that the parameters of the commission should be well defined and made public, and when and if they need to change that should also be made public. I also believe the members need to be chosen carefully. They should be chosen for their ability to communicate, listen, compromise and most of all that the members be known in the community as persons that have shown these qualities.

The commission needs a well-defined leadership, a moderator that understands the role and exercises it fairly and equitably. I think there need to be well defined behavior parameters, again enforce equitably and fairly. Finally, any subcommittees need to have similar leadership.

Thank you for your consideration,
Alicia Marshall

Martha Alvarez

From: nisans@aol.com
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 6:18 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Council Members,

We are some of the rare MB natives.....almost 66 years! Both of us born in local hospitals and brought home to parent's homes in Manhattan Beach. Other than college years, the two of us have lived here and raised our family ever since!!

Please end the task force.....their service is over, we understand it was necessary, but their job is done!

There should be no permanent oversight committee.

Please reject the apology letter and the rest of the suggestions. This has been proposed by a small fraction of our community, and why?? We, the residents for over 65 years, have nothing to apologize for.

Thank you,
Steve & Peggy Nisen
504 3rd Street

Martha Alvarez

From: nisans@aol.com
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 6:18 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BBTF

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Council Members,

We are some of the rare MB natives.....almost 66 years! Both of us born in local hospitals and brought home to parent's homes in Manhattan Beach. Other than college years, the two of us have lived here and raised our family ever since!!

Please end the task force.....their service is over, we understand it was necessary, but their job is done!

There should be no permanent oversight committee.

Please reject the apology letter and the rest of the suggestions. This has been proposed by a small fraction of our community, and why?? We, the residents for over 65 years have nothing to apologize for.

Thank you,
Steve & Peggy Nisen
504 3rd Street

Martha Alvarez

From: nedmomary@aol.com
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 5:49 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BRUCE'S BEACH

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

i hope i haven't been misinformed , but this is what i have read and heard----i hope i am wrong.

it is with a heavy heart that i even need to write this letter. recent events have come to light that i couldn't imagine happening in manhattan beach. a task force was formed-the first mistake-to evaluate our beautiful town. who are these people to tell us what we believe. it reminds me of the soviet politburo where a small group of people sitting on high dictating to the general population how we feel or act. i have practiced dentistry in manhattan beach for 45 years seeing whites, blacks, hispanics, and even italians with not one incident of racial overtones/ i have friends who were raised in manhattan beach and they cannot ever see racial animosity in our town. do we have individual racists sure ,but to malign our beautiful city as being systemically racist is not only hurtful but slanderous. who knows what happened 100 years ago---can you blame people living here now for these past actions. it would be like blaming you for what your great grandfather did 100 years ago. i propose the only racists are the individuals on the task force that proposed these ridiculous demands. i think the council wil come to the same conclusions ---- that's why we elected you.

ps--- i hope i am wrong about some of these assumptions and i was only kidding about the italians as they are some of my closes friends.

Martha Alvarez

From: Michelle Minier <minier.michelle@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 6:07 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force Comments

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

I am writing to you to express my concerns and views on the Bruce's Beach Task Force (BBTF) and recommendations outlined in the Progress Report dated 3/16/21.

1. I do not support any sort of Apology or Acknowledgment, including the ones drafted by the BBTF. The residents of Manhattan Beach should not be made to apologize for the alleged actions that happened in the past. Further, the Apology in Appendix 2 is outrageously biased, relies on hearsay and contains divisive and politically-based content and opinions. The City Council should not have the right to enter into such Apologies on behalf of its residents.
2. I do not support the creation of artwork memorializing the history of Bruce's Beach.
3. I do not support the addition of one community forum as described in Appendix 6.
4. I do not support the continuation of the Bruce's Beach webpage, the Task Force Continued Efforts in Appendix 5 or any permanent Commission on equity or social justice. The BBTF should be dissolved.
5. I open to a new plaque at Bruce's Beach if the message is unbiased and accurate (does not put words in the mouths of residents such as an apology). The cost should be minimal.

The BBTF has clearly gone beyond the boundaries of its initial mission of creating a new plaque. I attended the last Zoom meeting and the BBTF has gotten out control and is being dominated by persons that have a nationwide agenda.

The materials provided and written by the BBTF it is clear that the BBTF is biased and not necessarily representative of many of the residents of MB. The History Report, Apology and other documents are biased, express opinions as facts and contains omissions, inflammatory rhetoric and hearsay. Some examples:

1. BBTF has the opinion that there is "systemic racism" and "we are all complicit in its harms, and must be accountable for its elimination." I do not believe systemic racism exists in Manhattan Beach. Manhattan Beach is welcoming and not does restrict or prevent individuals from living here.

2. Approximately 30 lots, comprised of both black and white landowners, were declared by eminent domain. If the BBTf genuinely cared about justice, it would fight for all affected landowners, not just the Bruce family.
3. After condemnation, MB did not restrict any landowners from purchasing other property in MB; the Bruce's simply chose to move elsewhere.
4. The Bruce's took advantage of the court system and lost under due process of law. If the Bruce's desired to continue to fight, they could have appealed, but they did not.

I oppose all forms of discrimination. It's the character and values of the individual that count.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michelle Minier

Martha Alvarez

From: Frank Sillman <frank.sillman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 5:49 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force input

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City Council -

A minority of Manhattan Beach residents should not speak for the majority of the residents.

Nationwide there is a small minority of citizens trying to impose their views, revisionist history and resolutions on the majority of the citizens, which is undemocratic. We need to stand up to the minority mob bullying and focus our efforts on continuing to improve our country like we have for over 200 years. Just as no person is perfect, our nation is not perfect but it is still the greatest nation in the history of human civilization.

We need to stop trying to tear down our country and divide our citizens but rather work to unite the nation on a path of continuing to improve our country for all Americans.

As our city council, you need to be extra careful of officially saying or doing something that will further divide our community as opposed to unifying the community.

Thanks

Frank

Martha Alvarez

From: breton lobner <bklobner42@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 5:51 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force
Attachments: Letter - City Council - Bruce's Beach - 3-15-2021-pdf.pdf

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Please accept and consider this letter with regard to the item on the agenda for tomorrow's meeting regarding Bruce's Beach.

Bret Lobner

March 15, 2021

Honorable Members of the City Council
City of Manhattan Beach
1400 Highland Avenue
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Re: Bruce's Beach

As a long-time resident of Manhattan Beach (nearly 50 years), I am deeply concerned by the actions of the Bruce's Beach Task Force. The Task Force (1) exceeded its role given it by the City Council, (2) concluded Manhattan Beach is a racist city, (3) ignored facts about the condemnation of the properties comprising the park and lifeguard station, (4) determined an apology is warranted for something that occurred over 100 years ago for actions taken by a few people who died nearly a century ago and (5) now desires to become a permanent unelected standing committee in our City.

Whatever was the motivation 100 years ago for condemning the properties, it in no way reflects on the Manhattan Beach of today and those living here. There is no evidence that our City or its residents are racist. Shockingly, however, the report to the Council by the Task Force Co-Chairs contains the following, *"We are under no illusion that the Task Force's work will end racism here or anywhere."* This statement wrongly admits there is "racism here" in Manhattan Beach today. I and the many people I know in our City reject the notion that racism exists here.

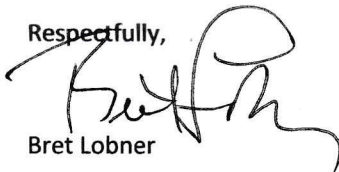
While rewording the plaque at Bruce's Beach may be necessary, it should only be done if the plaque inaccurately states the facts. Beyond this, the Task Force should be disbanded, no apology is warranted or should be given, and this entire matter should be relegated to and remain history. We living in 2021 are not responsible for the actions of a few individuals taken over a century ago. They cannot speak from their graves as to the reasons for their actions.

It is truly unfortunate that the Task Force was comprised of certain individuals with a preconceived agenda who felt justified to exaggerate beyond the provable truth and to make emotional allegations in order to buttress their position. There is no evidence that the Bruce family or the other owners (whose properties were taken by eminent domain) were paid less than fair market value. To the contrary, there is considerable evidence that some may have been overpaid, including the Bruce family, and that the parties to the lawsuit were adequately represented by able legal counsel. There is no evidence that the KKK played any role in the condemnation action in Manhattan Beach. The facts referenced in the historical report occurred in Redondo Beach which was many miles from our City and even in a different jurisdiction. Finally, there is no evidence that the isolated incidents by "unknown persons" mentioned in the proposed apology resolution were the actions of the City, its officials or residents, or were racially motivated. The few reported incidents of flat tires perpetrated by unidentified persons many, many years ago is hardly grounds for concluding as uncontroverted fact that the actions were racially motivated.

Apologies generally are based on blame or responsibility. Here, there is absolutely no evidence that anyone living in Manhattan Beach today is responsible for what occurred more than a century ago and there is no evidence that anyone today condones what occurred back then. Under such circumstances, no apology is justified.

In conclusion, I submit the Council should (1) disband the Task Force, (2) reject any apology because it is not warranted, but (3) should investigate whether the current plaque in the park accurately states the park's history and to take appropriate action to reword the plaque should it be found in need of clarification.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bret Lobner", written over a horizontal line.

Bret Lobner

Martha Alvarez

From: Bobby Sillman <bobby.sillman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 5:38 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dear City Council, Suspend the Bruce's Beach Task Force & its Biased Agenda, from Bobby Sillman

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City Council,

I do not support the continuation of the Bruce's Beach Task Force or any permanent Commission on Racial Equity and Social Justice.

I do not support reparations or restitution, including money or land, to any parties affected by the legal condemnation of land in the 1920s.

I do not support an art piece or historical plaque further commemorating a one-sided rendition by the Task Force on Manhattan Beach public property.

I do not support an apology or an acknowledgement that Manhattan Beach and its residents are racist or were ever racially motivated to remove the Bruce family. By issuing an apology or an acknowledgement on behalf of current Manhattan Beach residents who did not live during the 1920s nor were directly involved in the condemnation process is wrong and immoral.

Furthermore, the evidence of social injustice provided by the Task Force is riddled with historical errors and omissions, sensationalism, and inflammatory rhetoric. For example:

1. Approximately 30 lots, composed of both black and white landowners, were declared by eminent domain. If the Task Force genuinely cared about justice, it would fight for all affected landowners, not just the Bruce family.
2. After condemnation, MB did not restrict any landowners from purchasing other property in MB; the Bruce's simply chose to move elsewhere.
3. The Bruce's took advantage of the court system and lost under due process of law. If the Bruce's desired to continue to fight for their land, they could have appealed, but they did not.

I believe the Task Force and its advocates are capitalizing on a nationwide agenda to portray all white people as racist and make black people victims while simultaneously hoping to profit off of events of the past.

In addition, by merely entertaining the Task Force and its proposals, Manhattan Beach taxpayers will end up paying for extraneous positions and commissions when our money could be better spent on our schools and rehabilitating our city and our ocean.

In conclusion, I condemn all forms of discrimination, especially racism, but I will not give in to the narrative that Manhattan Beach is a racist city, now or ever. Manhattan Beach is an inclusive city and there are no restrictions limiting individuals and families from living and thriving here.

Institutionalized and systemic racism does not exist in Manhattan Beach, and I urge City Council to recognize the overt and dishonest strategy to rewrite the history of this great city we all live in and love.

Thank you,
Bobby Sillman

Martha Alvarez

From: Daryl Nelson <darylnelson@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 5:37 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments re: BBTF

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I only want to amend Councilman Napolitano's Alternate Apology: Item E.

Now, therefore be it resolved that the city of Manhattan Beach formally apologizes for:

A,B,C,D,

E. The city's overdue recognition of these events to the detriment of generations of Manhattan Beach residents.

I feel it needs correction to essentially say:

E. The city's overdue recognition of these events, IF causing harm to generations of Manhattan Beach residents.

The essence of the change is to allow the possibility that ALL generations of Manhattan Beach residents were NOT adversely affected and if so?? The apology applies.

Martha Alvarez

From: Rick Ascher <rabigocean@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 5:13 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The Slander and Libel of MB by some members of its own City Council

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

To the Members of MB City Council---As a 35 year resident of Manhattan beach , i have only seen a city that is welcoming to all with malice to none . To be clear , I have never witnessed racism of any kind in all my years and I am quite sure that if anyone in this town ever exhibited racism in any form , they would quickly become a pariah , excommunicated from the town square and persona non grata . We all know that to be accused of racism is a defamatory and ugly charge, and the height of arrogance is for one man or group to claim to know what is in another man's heart . The heart of the City and citizens of Manhattan Beach is good and benevolent. In 1920 , much of Manhattan Beach was a sand dune and a desolate part of LA---America was quite a different place (some had abhorrent ignorance toward people of color , irish , italians, etc) but the most free place iin the world and greatest force for good in the history of mankind as it remains today..Always striving to create a more perfect union . Politicians in America are trying to divide all based on race , sex , gender , etc , etc,-- lets not allow MB to become an experiment in division and distrust. In the words of the great MLK --- "judge not by the color of ones skin but by the content of ones character" ---I believe these words demonstrate how MB citizens would appraise ALL their fellow Americans. I would hope that members of the MB City Council would push back firmly against any and all slanderous and libelous accusations against this great town and its citizens. Thank you all for your service . Sincerely ...Rick Ascher PS it is unconscionable to think that the Park at 27th st should be changed ---every municipality in the country would have someone or a party with a grievance that would demand remuneration, it would never end, and could number in the trillions . As one with Latino heritage/ ancestors , I would be due a great deal of land from the 1800's outside Tucson and Albuquerque that was taken, apparently, for pennies. No one has ever pondered this in my extended family, only old stories from the old days exist, and gratitude for being American.

Martha Alvarez

From: Sterling Hayden <sir@sunspeed.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 5:12 PM
To: Steve Napolitano
Cc: List - City Council
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] BBTF

That will take awhile to read and evaluate. You're a faster typist than I can read. I guess this Thursday we'll hang on to read the BR instead of straight to the recycle. Speaking of recycle, when it was first introduced with the orange bins it was promoted that if high enough % of residents complied the trash pick up cost would come down. Well, the next City news was that the trash rate was going up. Despite almost 100% compliance.

Oh a year ago, went down to 27th St for a jog in the sand. Could not access the beach. It was guarded by the MB Police and the Gestapo lifeguards. Because of virus concerns. Not long after that the MB Police escorted a huge group of BLM folks on a march for some social justice issue. Through MB to HB. Something about that still doesn't make sense.

On 3/15/2021 4:34 PM, Steve Napolitano wrote:

Well that's not very nice, and who said anything about reparations? Not me.

Please understand that there's a lot of misinformation circulating out there about the Bruce's Beach Task Force, including the two page ad in the Beach Reporter this week. I apologize in advance for the long email, and if it sounds defensive, well, it's because I've been accused of saying and doing a lot of things I've never said or done, so here's my attempt to clarify some things in response to the fiction out there...

There's never been any delay tactics by me, that's just silly. Nobody wants to have this heard more than me at this point. The Task Force asked for some additional time to finish their report and we said ok. Wouldn't be much to talk about at a meeting if they hadn't completed their report.

Formation of the Task Force was unanimously approved by the City Council last year after a lot of input and a renewed interest in getting and sharing the real history behind Bruce's Beach. The members of the Task Force were also unanimously appointed and they all live in Manhattan Beach.

The Task Force did not exceed the scope of what it was tasked to do. It may have talked about things that some folks didn't want it to talk about, but Task Forces talk about things, that's what they do. Hildy and I helped facilitate the meetings and provided input based on our experience, however, the work of the task force is the work of the other 13 members of it. Neither Hildy nor I wrote any of their materials, nor did we vote to approve what they wrote. Sometimes they listened to my input, sometimes they didn't.

There's nothing in the Task Force's report or apology that explicitly states that Manhattan Beach is a racist city or calls anyone out as being racist. I publicly stated last September that we're not a racist city and I've restated that again and again. It's also specifically stated in the Notes from the Co-Chairs and my version of an apology, both of which can be found in Tuesday's agenda.

The Task Force is not working with Supervisor Hahn on any of this. The Supervisor has made statements about giving back the Bruce's property which is currently County property. I have never talked to her about Bruce's Beach and at the end of the day, I think Supervisor Hahn knows that she can't give the property back because that would be a gift of public property.

To be clear, the Council has already stated it will not pay anyone for anything—no reparations, no restitution. We're not giving back any land or building housing on it either. The park stays a park.

I don't support the Task Force's version of an apology, I think it drags in other issues and instances that should not be included. My alternative apology is strictly focused on the City's involvement as a public agency in the racially motivated condemnation of the properties, all the properties, in the 1920's. It also says that we're not the same City today that we were then, that the current residents are not responsible for what happened then, and that today we stand against such racist actions. I'm not sure why anyone would be opposed to that. It's not a confession or assignment of blame or guilt, it's an acknowledgement of facts that we already know and our role in them at that time. And yes, I think that the City saying its sorry is a meaningful symbolic gesture that puts us on more solid ground going forward.

A social justice committee is not one of the Task Force recommendations. There are only 5 actual recommendations and that isn't one of them. The Task Force talks about wanting to work on putting one together in Appendix 5, but only with Council's permission. I don't agree that we need one and don't support it. However, even if it were created, this notion that it would have unfettered powers of oversight is complete nonsense. Commissions don't do anything but make recommendations. They're advisory. They have no power on their own to do anything. Only Council has that power.

If the racial motivations behind the condemnation are being questioned, I'd just advise you to read the history that the volunteers put together that deal with what happened and with the common misconceptions about Bruce's Beach as well. It's very well researched. Even one of the councilmembers at the time later admitted to it, saying they were advised by the City Attorney to never speak about the true reason behind it during the trial. The former Councilmember, Frank Dougherty said he thought it was the meanest thing he ever did and felt sorry for doing it. I've got a copy of the article if you want me to send it to you.

I've heard it said that this is a power grab, but I don't know what that means. What power? Who's grabbing it? And why?

It's been said that the Task Force's apology states that "MB must make amends by building low income housing, and establishing a permanent commission on Racial Equity and Social Justice presiding over MBPD, city staff, businesses and schools." The Task Force's apology language does not state any of those things.

Again, sorry for the long email, but I don't think it serves anyone to be misinformed about these things. If, after reading all this, you still are against the Task Force and everything they've done or recommend, that's fine, I get it. I don't agree with a lot of what they've put down on paper either, but it's only fair that their efforts be seen through a clear lense rather than a purposely distorted one. Anyway, appreciate you reading all this and I hope it has clarified some of the issues for you. Thanks!

Steve Napolitano
Councilmember
City of Manhattan Beach



STEVE NAPOLITANO
COUNCILMEMBER

(310) 880-7500
snapolitano@citymb.info

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH 1400 Highland Avenue Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
Office Hours: M-Th 7:30 AM-5:30 PM | Fridays 7:30 AM-4:30 PM | Not Applicable to Public Safety
Reach Manhattan Beach Here for you 24/7, use our click and fix it app
Download the mobile app now



From: Sterling Hayden <sir@sunspeed.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 4:26 PM
To: List - City Council
Cc: brucebeachgetthefacts@gmail
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BBTF

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City Council
knock it off with the black reparations nonsense.
Clearly your task force is leading everything in a very bad direction.
And racist black people are creating racism where it doesn't exist.
Assisted by small time, lifelong politicians like Napolitano.
SH



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Martha Alvarez

From: Allen Kirschenbaum <allen.kirschenbaum@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 5:10 PM
To: List - City Council; City Manager
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for the Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

To the Manhattan Beach City Council members:

I am writing in support of the Bruce's Beach Task Force and in support of its continuation beyond the completion of an art piece and an acknowledgement. I scrolled through posts on Facebook and NextDoor about the task force, and I see a lot of false narratives.

One common narrative is that our City of Manhattan Beach has been or will be labeled a 'racist city' if the task force is allowed to continue. I think the opposite is true. Addressing this racist incident in our past is complicated. It deserves time and nuanced thought, not a rush to completion.

It is much too broad a brush to say that any particular citizen of this city is racist or that the city itself is racist. What is true is that we are grappling with an ugly incident in the city's history and that the solution is complex. There are lots of voices to hear from and many ideas to sort through.

The recent New York Times article that is often cited is entitled "This Black Family Ran a Thriving Beach Resort 100 Years Ago. They Want Their Land Back." If we take our time and offer thoughtful solutions, perhaps the next article will be entitled "Manhattan Beach, CA Sets an Example for Other Cities Grappling With a Racist Past."

I am particularly appalled by the advertisement placed in The Beach Reporter, where complaints about the task force were expressed but no signatures were provided. We live in a relatively small city, and people should be willing to sign their names to their publicly stated opinions.

Thank you,
Allen Kirschenbaum
2404 John Street
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Martha Alvarez

From: Thomas Chang <changhathomas@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 5:07 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BBTF question

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Please clarify, if the task force continues, in any way shape or form does it automatically take on powers as described in appendix 5?

I think that is the plan, the CC will vote to continue the task force, and the task force will assume it is now a committee and have the powers described in appendix 5, even if not explicitly given by the CC.

Please confirm

<http://legistar.granicus.com/daystar.legistar6.sdk.ws/View.ashx?M=F&GovernmentGUID=MANH&LogicalFileName=3ecd5dff-2598-4e31-b872-362045583702.pdf&From=Granicus>

Martha Alvarez

From: Don Langley <dlangle@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 4:56 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Close out the Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hi City Council Members,

Please move forward to close out the Bruce's Beach Task Force ASAP. And please consider the report filed as final. The History report is filled with hearsay not based in facts, and the Declaration of Apology will only open up the city and citizens to litigation and ongoing unrest.

It's time for the council to move on to other important matters for the community. Thank you for your consideration, and I appreciate your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

Don Langley

--

Don L. Langley
dlangle@gmail.com
408-591-5600 - Cell

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/donlangley/>

Martha Alvarez

From: Dottie Horn <dmsavoie@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 4:54 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Bruce's Beach

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

I am resending the letter I wrote to you on March 2, 2021.

PLEASE take note that the majority of the people in Manhattan Beach are very friendly and not racist people. We invite people to live here as our neighbors without any prejudice. We don't need a task force to tell us this.

VOTE AGAINST ANY PERMANENT SOCIAL JUSTICE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE!

END THE TASK FORCE!

REJECT APOLOGY LETTER and all other recommendations Save the factual history report about the 1920's Bruce family.

Sent from my iPad
Dottie Horn

> On Mar 2, 2021, at 6:03 PM, Dottie Horn <dmsavoie@yahoo.com> wrote:

>

> I ask the City Council to vote against the plan of the Confession and Apology letter.

> This is a part of history, albeit a sad part, and we do not want to erase it. You are, however using a broad brush stating that all current Manhattan Beach residents are the same as, and responsible for, what others did 100 years ago in this town. Do we punish, or hold responsible, children for crimes their grandparents or great grandparents committed? That's not bringing justice to anyone. That will not solve the problem of racism. I have lived in this community almost my entire 79 years. I have never met anyone who did not fully welcome a loving, caring, person or family wishing to be a part of our wonderful city. I would love and welcome any family who wishes to make Manhattan Beach their home and be a part of this community I raised my family in. Everyone I know feels the same way.

>

> The only part of the resolution I agree with is parts A and B of Section 4. Do we need to have policies in place to fight against racism or unfairness within our leadership? Absolutely! The most disappointing part of all this is that you feel the need to have ordinances in place to tell our community and it's leaders to treat others fairly; to not be racist. It is a sad day indeed when this is not the default behaviors and actions of the people elected and hired to lead our community.

>

> Please find a way to educate and inform people of the history of our community. Make sure history never repeats itself. But please treat us all fairly too, and do not make us apologize for something we had no say in and do not feel...just as we have no say in what you are doing. This letter you are drafting is proof that the leaders of this community are planning to act on behalf of the citizens without consensus, unilaterally making decisions we do not agree with. Decisions were made back then by a few that not everyone supported, and decisions are being made now that everyone does not support, nor does it reflect the attitude of the majority of the citizens of our town. Guess you're right in that that hasn't changed in 100 years.

>

> Please do not vote to approve this letter. I love this community and everyone in it. Allow me to be held accountable for my own actions.

>

> Sincerely,

> Dottie Horn

Martha Alvarez

From: Beezhold, Donald J. <DBeezhold@mednet.ucla.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 4:51 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force Report

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Manhattan Beach City Council members, As a 20+year homeowner of Manhattan Beach I would like to express my full support for Bruce's Beach Task Force and the report they have created. It is my opinion that the council should appreciate the work done to create it and should fully endorse its contents.

Sincerely,
Don Beezhold

Sent from my iPhone

UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES IMPORTANT WARNING: This email (and any attachments) is only intended for the use of the person or entity to which it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged and confidential. You, the recipient, are obligated to maintain it in a safe, secure and confidential manner. Unauthorized redisclosure or failure to maintain confidentiality may subject you to federal and state penalties. If you are not the intended recipient, please immediately notify us by return email, and delete this message from your computer.

Martha Alvarez

From: Marilyn Scott <marilynscott@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 4:46 PM
To: List - City Council
Cc: City Manager
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach

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We have a chance to get this right. This is so much more than a city acknowledgment or small monument. Manhattan Beach can set an example of where we are as a community and where we are as a country. Understanding together that racism is alive today and together to bring humility and justice for a better future. Black Americans have built this country, just as the Bruce's built a place for African Americans to come and relax and enjoy. I am moved by the story and very open to a contribution, that will make us all proud and make this city show it's love for those who came before. I support the efforts of the Task Force and hope they take the time to do the work we can all be proud of and make Manhattan Beach a leader in facing these difficult injustices.

Marilyn Scott
1141 8th Street

Martha Alvarez

From: Maryam Danaei <kimdanaei@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 4:40 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

To MB City Council,

I'm reaching out to you to show my support for the continuation of the Bruce's Beach Task Force and stand in opposition of those who wish to dismantle task force and oppose recognizing the historical, anti democratic and discriminatory practices which contributed to the dissolution of Bruce's Beach.

Thank you,

Maryam Danaei

Martha Alvarez

From: stan johnson <stanmnca34@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 4:28 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce beach Task Force

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I do not believe MB is racist today and don't feel we should apologize for possibly having been racist 100 years ago. The correct and complete history should be obtained and possibly rewording of the plaque if it is not correct. Discontinue all task force meetings going forward as well as looking for ways to correct systematic racism. Do not make this an on going biased task force looking to correct injustices that don't exist!!! Stanley Johnson 601 17th st

Martha Alvarez

From: Sterling Hayden <sir@sunspeed.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 4:28 PM
To: List - City Council
Cc: brucebeachgetthefacts@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BBTF

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City Council

knock it off with the black reparations nonsense.
Clearly your task force is leading everything in a very bad direction.
And racist black people are creating racism where it doesn't exist.

Assisted by small time, lifelong politicians like Napolitano.
SH



Virus-free. www.avg.com

Martha Alvarez

From: Kathy Taylor <taylorkathymb@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 4:27 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City Council,

I am very disappointed in the Manhattan Beach City Council. When are you going to stand up for the citizens you have been elected to represent? The City Council has not stopped or objected to the onslaught of outsiders disparaging our city...The national news media, the local news media, LA County, Next Door, Facebook and residents of other cities getting into our business.

The long-time invested citizens of Manhattan Beach are the unwilling pawns in this little game you are playing. But our citizens are smart, know the truth, are independent and we are overwhelmingly opposed to the BBTF proposals.

On 3/16/2021, stop the insanity you have perpetrated on this community. NO apology letter, NO DEIC and disband the BBTF. As if we need another commission or council to further ravage the city.

On 3/17/2021, start acting like a City Council and address real issues facing the city.
Schools need to be opened to counteract depression, suicidal tendencies and despair.
The dramatic increase in crime is appalling.
Small businesses are still suffering in this pandemic.

If you cannot resolve these pressing issues, let's get a City Council that can lead the effort. The BBTF has been an unnecessary distraction from the real problems plaguing Manhattan Beach and it's time to get back to reality.

Kathy Taylor
41 year resident of Manhattan Beach

Martha Alvarez

From: Sterling Hayden <sir@sunspeed.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 4:26 PM
To: List - City Council
Cc: brucebeachgetthefacts@gmail
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BBTF

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City Council

knock it off with the black reparations nonsense.
Clearly your task force is leading everything in a very bad direction.
And racist black people are creating racism where it doesn't exist.

Assisted by small time, lifelong politicians like Napolitano.
SH

Martha Alvarez

From: William Arledge <wdarledge@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 4:12 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce Beach Task Force
Attachments: Dear Manhattan Beach City Council.docx

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Manhattan Beach City Council Members

Making amends for how Manhattan Beach treated the Bruce family in the city nearly a century ago, recently researched and documented by the Bruce Beach Task Force, must be considered a commendable and honorable endeavor.

Please do not go out of bounds, though, from the scope of the Bruce Beach Task Force approved by the city council in September 2020 with ongoing indefinite committees overseeing our City Government based on perceived injustices by an unelected select few. As a 50 year resident, I agree with Mr. Napolitano that **Manhattan Beach is not a racist city**, and we definitely do not need a bureaucracy reporting to City Hall or the Police department to keep it that way.

Therefore, please do not allow Manhattan Beach to find itself on a calamitous never ending path for 'justice' with no one left behind to be held accountable for its negative counterproductive implications to our community. The nightmare of homeless shelter necessarily having to expand beyond Bruce Beach to the Green Belt has unfortunately come to mind.

Please consider this Bruce Beach Task Force report as final, address the factual historical findings of the Bruce Beach era, and then let us move on as a community.

Respectfully

Bill Arledge

Dear Manhattan Beach City Council

Making amends for how Manhattan Beach treated the Bruce family in the city nearly a century ago, recently researched and documented by the Bruce Beach Task Force, must be considered a commendable and honorable endeavor.

Please do not go out of bounds, though, from the scope of the Bruce Beach Task Force approved by the city council in September 2020 with ongoing indefinite committees overseeing our City Government based on perceived injustices by an unelected select few. As a 50 year resident, I agree with Mr. Napolitano that Manhattan Beach is not a racist city, and we definitely do not need a bureaucracy reporting to City Hall or the Police department to keep it that way.

Therefore, please do not allow Manhattan Beach to find itself on a calamitous never ending path for 'justice' with no one left behind to be held accountable for its negative counterproductive implications to our community. The nightmare of homeless shelter necessarily having to expand beyond Bruce Beach to the Green Belt has unfortunately come to mind.

Please consider this Bruce Beach Task Force report as final, address the factual historical findings of the Bruce Beach era, and then let us move on as a community.

Respectfully

Bill Arledge

Martha Alvarez

From: Rosalie <rdevine@mjda.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 4:03 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] March 16th Council Meeting

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City Council,

The Bruce's Beach situation has been blown totally out of perspective. Why are we apologizing to anyone? We the current residents of MB have done nothing to instigate racism.

This is like a kid apologizing for his grandparents decisions or values. What do we really know about the situation at that time? How do we make judgements on past history? Are we qualified and furthermore, why do we need to absorb an obligation we know little about? If "Imminent Domain" was used to vacate this area and every highway that has been built and ID was enforced could enjoy the same ramifications? This all seems absurd....where does it end?

I believe you have opened a "Pandora's Box" and there is no justification to substantiate the commotion being entertained. This situation should have been squashed before now.

It is not too late! Beware, if you don't do it now, you will very sorry later. The residents of Manhattan Beach have worked hard to maintain this lifestyle. I moved here 38 years ago from NYC with \$30,000 and have worked to purchase a home, grow a business and be a responsible part of the community. Is it "fair" that I should relinquish all I worked toward because Manhattan Beach is too worried to take appropriate action?

We have never had a law that omitted the Black Community from enjoying MB. They had the same opportunity as I did to purchase a home here. The way I worked to acquire the MB lifestyle they could too...and not be given a trophy because they think they "deserve" it. We cannot be frightened by retaliation....if it doesn't happen now it will eventually raise a new problem in the future.

Our Police Department is incredible...give them the tools necessary to stop any insurrection. I would rather pay for Police to protect the residents of MB than to hand out "guilt" money.

I have nothing to be guilty for...because God made me white I should apologize? Be White or Black if you can afford to pay MB prices you can live here!!!

I am not a racist...some of my best friends are Black..like myself they took responsibility of their lives and became Lawyers, businessmen and moved on in life. My neighborhood growing up in NY was 40% black...I didn't see color then and I don't today. If you can afford to live in Beverly Hills so be it, I chose MB because I liked the community...why is there such a need to make us into socialists!!

Fortunately, we were not all born with the same brains, color skin or parents that is what makes us the individuals we are! I would have loved to be born an Einstein but it was not in the cards. Let's all try to take our abilities and use them to our best advantage.

Sincerely,

Rosalie Devine

Martha Alvarez

From: Marjorie Bowen <marjorie.bowen@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 3:56 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] REMINDER OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING OUR CITY!

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

TO THE CITY COUNCIL -

I am resubmitting the correspondence that we've had previously to reiterate my grave concerns over approving anything recommended from the Bruce Beach Task Force that is OUTSIDE of its ORIGINAL scope. That includes any apology that covers anything beyond the original eminent domain of the Bruce's land.

Below are two emails from me that summarize my concerns and positions. My concern has only grown as the Bruce Beach story has now been taken up not only in local papers and the LA Times, but also the New York Times and a [Change.org](#) petition to return the land to the family. Troubling, the [Change.org](#) petition states: "We call for a public statement from the city to address the park's history **and it's future commitment to change the current racial intolerant climate in the City Administration, law enforcement, and the community as a whole.**" This type of language is incendiary and insulting to our city's residents, government, and services. We have no racial intolerance and we need to state that and fight back on this type of accusation.

Stepping back, it is patently obvious that Bruce's Beach and Manhattan Beach's response are being used as an example of "racism" and the advocates for that position won't ever be satisfied. Our city is a pawn in a larger political and social movement, yet nothing we've done today or any time in recent history warrants the City of Manhattan Beach to be held out as racist. Moreover, it is downright offensive for us to be put on defense, but here we are. Unfortunately, the task force's expansion of scope and their associated recommendations only give fuel to the charge that the city, today, is a racist place. Simply untrue (and please see bold text below on real socio-economic issue).

Fortunately, while the NYT and [Change.org](#) may have taken up the "racism" cry, the action much closer to home largely echo my concerns. If you look on NextDoor and Patch there are lively discussions defending the city and our residents. Given cancel culture, I strongly believe that there is a very substantial, but mostly silent, majority who are truly offended and have no patience for being accused of racism. It is your duty to stand up for our city, its good residents, and not allow those seeking to make an unfair example of us to succeed.

It is very sad that we are where we are, and the task force should have been kept on point along the way. I admire each of you for being public figures. I would never want that job, particularly now. However, you've chosen to represent me and everyone else who is tired of being accused of being racist. Please do NOT tolerate our city being painted as racist. I urge you to do what is right for the city, which is to STOP the targeting, and stand up to false accusations. Approve artwork, approve an accurate history, and certainly an appropriate plaque, but please don't allow our city to continue to be painted as racist. We are not. It is offensive. Shut the task force down and focus on the bigger issue of homelessness, getting kids back to school, keeping the beach clean and safe, keeping crime low, keeping our businesses thriving, and keeping our small and welcoming town with exceptional public services (police included) thriving.

Perhaps the best summary is as follows: if my next door neighbor happened to be a person of color I would welcome them with open arms to our community, and I believe the vast vast majority of people in Manhattan

Beach feel the same way; however, I would not welcome a homeless person living in my alley or sleeping on the beach a mere 250 yards from my home. Let's get the Bruce Beach situation behind us and focus on what really matters given the state of Los Angeles County and the real threats to our community.

Thank you for your service and in advance for protecting our city.

Regards,

Marjorie Bowen

EMAIL FROM MARCH 2, 2021

Steve and all Council Members -

Steve - You are clearly frustrated and likely understandably so. I guess that's another way of saying welcome to the world of public service.

Bottom line - many people work very hard to live in Manhattan Beach and take great pride in our community. We have wonderful public schools, parks, and a great home town feel. **While it is unfortunate that the community is not more diverse, given the high cost of housing, the lack of diversity is a much broader socio-economic issue related to the US's white and black income and wealth gaps, but it is not associated with present day racism of the residents, city government/schools, or businesses in town. Sociologists have been tracking the US wealth gap between black and white Americans for decades, and the City of Manhattan Beach is not responsible for that gap, nor is it alone in lacking diversity. Most of the highest cost zip codes have little diversity, and that is true throughout LA City, County and the entire state and US. I concede that perhaps 100 years ago some bad deeds in Manhattan Beach somehow marginally contributed to the wealth gap, but suggesting that there is racism now is very offensive to many people, and that is where a broad apology with "workshops and forums" doesn't work and is completely inappropriate for our town today.**

Manhattan Beach is a small town, with good people, who always try to do the right thing. We welcome people. We don't want to be called racist because we are not, and we are tired of the accusation. The old saying "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" applies. Perhaps 100 years ago some in town were racist, but we aren't "systematically racist" now and our city did not cause racism. Moreover, with the country so divided on so many issues (race being one, but homelessness, mental health, covid all being issues as well), why do we want our town to be a flash point in race relations? What does it do for the residents other than stir up conflict and potentially damage our collective reputation and image as a community?

To the entire council: Please use your role to acknowledge that the past is just that - the past, and focus on maintaining our high quality of life and small town, welcoming feel. Conflict and being center stage in the race war is not part of that feel. If Bruce's Beach needs a "solution" ensure that the solution reflects the past, but does not negatively reflect who we are today. Most importantly, make sure that the "solution" doesn't go too far by implying a present day racism that is not the case. Then, please move on and work on homelessness, work on covid, work on ensuring kids are in school, work on ensuring our local businesses stay afloat. Certainly apologize for any wrongs 100 years ago, but let's get back to the problems that impact today's residents as opposed to those from long ago.

Sincerely,
Marjorie Bowen

EMAIL FROM MARCH 1, 2021

From: Marjorie Bowen <marjorie.bowen@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 5:56 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

To the City Counsel -

I understand that after much debate at the September 1, 2020 City Council Meeting, the Bruce Beach Task Force was given the mission of researching the history of what happened to the Bruce family more than 100 years ago, and then making recommendations to ensure that the signage / plaque / commemorative art at Bruce's Beach accurately reflected the historic facts. However, I now understand that the Task Force has broadened its scope. This self determined and expanded scope was without any public hearing, City Council consent, and even despite the Council's objections to a broader scope when the Task Force was formed. Nonetheless, the Bruce Beach Task Force, with its self determined broadened scope, has now has spent time reviewing much more recent history, as well as other issues regarding race and "equity" in Manhattan Beach. Finally, I understand that the Task Force has or will propose that Manhattan Beach issue a broad and sweeping apology for its racism and also create committees, forums, and extensive "community engagement" in discussions and a "meaningful apology" the city's racism (NO PAST TENSE).

LET ME BE VERY CLEAR - ANY APOLOGY THAT INCLUDES THE PRESENT TIME OR ANY TIME PERIOD OTHER THAN THE PERIOD WHEN THE BRUCE FAMILY WAS FORCED TO SELL THEIR PROPERTY, AND ANY NEXT STEPS THAT INCLUDE FORUMS, WORKSHOPS, OR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, IS VERY OFFENSIVE TO ME AS A RESIDENT AS IT STRONGLY IMPLIES AN ABSOLUTELY FALSE NARRATIVE ABOUT PRESENT DAY MANHATTAN BEACH. More bluntly, this city's residents take great offense to being accused (and convicted!) of racism with zero evidence. I strongly encourage the City Council to REJECT anything but recommendations pertaining to the original scope of the Task Force. Moreover, the City Council needs to censure the

City Council members who are part of the Task Force, and then IMMEDIATELY halt all work outside of the original scope.

It is incumbent on each and every City Council member to uphold their duty to the residents of Manhattan Beach and protect the city and its strong character and values. That obviously means not allowing a false truth to be created or perpetuated regarding our city today. Please reject the Task Force's expansion of scope, disregard any resulting recommendations, and get the community back on track to recognizing the past for what it is - perhaps dark - but the past.

Thank you,
Marjorie Bowen
225 6th Street

Martha Alvarez

From: betty_isley@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 3:33 PM
To: Steve Napolitano; Richard Montgomery; Joe Franklin; shadely@citymb.info; Hildy Stern; List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

This email is directed to the Manhattan Beach City Council regarding the Bruce's Beach Task Force. As a resident of Manhattan Beach for almost 40 years, I am both alarmed, and disgusted with what is being said about the citizens of this fine city. I think it is despicable that we, over 30,000 citizens, are being labeled as racists. This label of "racism" is inflammatory, slanderous, and an unfounded allegation. I find it disturbing to hear that only SOME facts are being presented by the BBTF while others are being conveniently omitted. I fear the BBTF has presented only one side of the events, while omitting other facts which might paint a more complete overview of the events which happened 100 years ago. The people of Manhattan Beach deserve to hear ALL of the facts.

I am also very alarmed the BBTF seeks to remain a permanent oversight committee for our town. No such oversight committee is warranted. This unelected body presents itself on the false premise that we are a systemically racist community, and that we need to be supervised. I vehemently disagree with making this task force a permanent "Commission", presiding over the MBPD, the city staff, businesses, schools, and essentially every single person residing in the city. This task force needs to be dismantled immediately following their presentation of findings. I urge all city council members to do so.

Respectfully,
Betty Isley

Sent from my iPhone

Martha Alvarez

From: Leanne Meyers <leannemeyers@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 3:31 PM
To: List - City Council; City Manager
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Task Force

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hello to all MB City Council members,

First and foremost thank you all for your tireless work on the Council seeing us through this difficult year. I am writing to voice my support for the BB Task Force. I feel it is something that has needed to be addressed moving forward for quite some time. It is also something that I firmly believe needs to continue beyond the submissions of their recommendations. There remain many voices to hear from and far more must be done beyond an art piece and an acknowledgement.

In my conversations with people on and offline there is a lot of denial about the city's past and present race tolerance. We need to come to terms with both in a compassionate and progressive fashion. Let us NOT be one more city that puts it's head in the sand and moves on. Let's be the example of the city we say and think we are. Face the facts ,deal with them in a fair and equitable fashion and move forward leading by example. I have proudly lived in Manhattan Beach for 28 years and I hope with the continuation of this Task Force I can continue to do so!

Much Gratitude,

Leanne Meyers |
545 21st Street
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Martha Alvarez

From: Vikki McMahon <fvcmahon@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 3:23 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Our town

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

City Council -

I have been a member of the Manhattan Beach Community since I was 3 years old when my dad moved here (parents divorced). Things have changed a lot in over 50 years ... I remember all the empty lots on the Strand (ice plant), when there was no bike path and the Strand was uneven concrete and broken in many places. We used to ride our bikes to Marineland, we fished off the pier, and my dad scuba dived for abalone off the PV coast. Rosecrans was 2 lanes and lined with eucalyptus trees with oil wells behind the trees we called "ponys". Very little crime - we left the doors and garages open all the time.

My husband and I purchased our first home in MB in 1992 (sold that), and our second in 2000 where we currently live. Our three kids attended Robinson and MBMS - now two are in college and one graduated - working in NY. We have three dogs, know and love ALL of our immediate neighbors and many more in the Hill Section and all over town. MB is a unique (small town) and everywhere I go I bump into someone I know. My kids still keep in touch with some of their teachers from Robinson and MBMS, and my son worked for the City last summer with his former MBMS PE teacher (Aqualetics). We know many of the local lifeguards from JGs, and the former principle of Robinson remembers the kids and asks about them when I frequently see her walking on the Strand. I have been a volunteer for Reading Partners for the past 6 years (Roosevelt and William Green Elementary schools in Lawndale). Guess what - the volunteer room is always filled with other residents from MB, including former retired teachers. Yes, we're a tight knit community, but I know we are a welcoming community to many of the visitors that come here to enjoy the beautiful beach, shops, parks, restaurants, etc.

Here are some events that residents and non residents enjoy - we welcome everyone:

Hometown Fair
Fireworks in December
Volleyball tournaments
International Surf Festival
Pumpkin Races
Art Festivals
Parks & Rec
Summer concerts at Polliwog
Salute the Troops
Earth Day Celebrations at Polliwog
Halloween Carnivals
Sand Castle Contests
Catalina Classic
JGs
Volunteer surf instructors for various groups through the Jimmy Miller Foundation
ETC

It hurts deeply that the residents of this community are being called racist - today ... and for something that happened over 100 years ago. I honestly do not know anyone that is racist. I am not racist, nor is any member of my family. I did not attend college after high school and started working at the age of 16 making \$3.35 an hour for a clothing manufacturing company in the City of Industry. I worked hard and was finally able to attend Santa Monica College (at night) after working a full day at the LA Times. My husband grew up on the east coast. His dad, brother and a sister died when he was a teenager. He started flipping burgers at Chubby Lanes when he was 15 - never took money from his mother who had very little. We are so blessed that we were able to save enough money to live here, raise our kids here, and enjoy this beautiful place. It makes us very sad that people are attempting to destroy the reputation of our little town by calling us racists. We are NOT a racist community - period.

Thank you.