

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Gary McAulay <gary.mcaulay@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 5:24 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Plaques

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Council

Unfortunately, I cannot imagine a scenario in which these plaques are written by council without severe criticism one way or the other about it being incorrect, inaccurate, and political. I could be wrong but the issue is, as you know extremely charged. I do truly believe that your better course of action would be to hire a history firm or even to solicit a couple of choices from different firms. If you are successful in pleasing everybody, it would be a first. I do think that an accurate and neutral plaque can be written but I think it will take an outside party to do so.

Respectfully,
Gary D. McAulay

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Diana Skaar <dianaskaar@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 5:21 PM
To: List - City Council; City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Do not cherry-pick facts for the Bruce's Beach plaque

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mayor Stern and City Councilmembers,

I just had a chance to read [Councilmember Napolitano's proposed draft](#) and [Councilmember Franklin's proposed draft](#).

With the lens of wanting to be accurate (and not sugar-coat) our history, **while also acknowledging that we are not the Manhattan Beach of 100 years ago**, I would urge you to support Councilmember Napolitano's draft if the Council can absolutely not agree on moving forward with the HAB draft. (Please do give us Residents the courtesy of explaining why the HAB proposed version is not acceptable).

Councilmember Franklin's proposal is not acceptable as it is inaccurate and worded in such a way that it is a slap in the face to any marginalized group that has faced injustices.

Thank you,
Diana Skaar
MB Resident

On Wed, Mar 9, 2022 at 11:17 PM Diana Skaar <dianaskaar@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Mayor Stern and Citycouncilmembers,

Please reject Councilmember's Hadley proposal for the Bruce's Beach Plaque which is a whitewashed attempt at sticking to "just the facts."

As a minority, I know how awful it feels to have your truths sugar-coated into feel-good stories of "*and yet she persisted*."

The Manhattan Beach of 2022 is not the Manhattan Beach of 100 years ago. Do not be afraid of embracing the truths that have been uncovered by the Bruce's Beach History Report which the City Council adopted. You have an opportunity to educate and inspire with our city's self-awareness in **acknowledging and condemning** our painful racist pasts, so that we can move forward and unite to do better. That is the American way.

--

Diana Skaar
MB Resident and parent of 2 young kids who are watching how our City leaders will act

--

Diana Skaar

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Elyse Gura <egura1211@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 5:20 PM
To: City Clerk; List - City Council; Elyse Gura
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reject Joe Franklin's proposed Bruce's Beach Plaque language

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Council member Franklin's version is almost identical (often exactly the same words) to Council member Suzanne Hadley's and equally uninspiring, inaccurate and unacceptable.

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Diane Levitt <diane.levitt@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 4:35 PM
To: City Clerk; List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Plaque

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

My name is Diane Levitt, and I live at 1816 5th St. I have owned this home since 1994.

I am writing to urge the City Council to vote against Member Hadley's proposed language for the plaque at Bruce's Beach, which denies both the history reported by the committee tasked with the investigation, and her own comments.

At this time, it's critical that the Council use the plaque as an opportunity to help all residents come together to acknowledge our shared past and our commitment to a less racist, more equitable community in the future. We can never move forward by denying the truth.

Thank you,

Diane Levitt

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Laura Kiely <laurakiely@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 4:33 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: support for Napolitano's Language for Bruce's Beach plaque

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council members,
I've just learned of Mayor Pro-tem Steve Napolitano's draft for the Bruce's Beach plaque, and I would like to add my support for it.

Best,
Laura Kiely
Manhattan Beach resident since 1994

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 10, 2022, at 12:34 PM, Laura Kiely <laurakiely@verizon.net> wrote:

Dear City Council members,

- Please deny the Bruce's Beach plaque language proposed by Councilmember Suzanne Hadley which is in direct opposition to her own statements from March 16 of last year: Her new language sanitizes and distorts the history of Bruce's Beach.
- The City's statement of Acknowledgment, Condemnation, and Empathy regarding Bruce's Beach accepts that eminent domain action was racially motivated, and the plaque should acknowledge this.
- I support using the well-researched language proposed by the History Advisory Committee for creating the language on the plaque. Or, I support using the HAC's language as a starting point for creating new language for the plaque. If we do not acknowledge the racism behind the eminent domain action, we will be covering up the truth, and **that** will brand us as racist.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Laura Kiely
Resident of Manhattan Beach since 1994

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Elyse Gura <evgura@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 4:03 PM
To: List - City Council; City Clerk
Cc: Elyse Gura
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Approving Steve Napolitano proposed Bruce's Beach Plaque Language

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I would like to submit my endorsement for Steve Napolitano's proposed Bruce's Beach Plaque language, copied and pasted below.

This proposal is an honest review of historical events beginning with Willa Bruce's purchase of Manhattan Beach property to serve as a beach resort for the Black community, through the loss of that property through racially motivated eminent domain. Even more, it condemns those past actions and thereby helps our city, together with all those who visit Bruce's Beach Park, to move forward as a "a city of love, respect and inclusion."

Steve Napolitano's Proposed Plaque Language, as I received it:
Proposed Language (325 words):

After being turned away from other coastal cities, Willa and Charles Bruce purchased property along the Strand in Manhattan Beach to create a beach resort for the area's Black community on February 19, 1912. By 1916, the resort known as "Bruce's Beach" was a thriving fixture for visiting Blacks, with a restaurant, dancehall, changing rooms and showers.

Soon after, several other Black families purchased property and built homes where this park is now, including Major George Prioleau and Mrs. Ethel Prioleau, Elizabeth Patterson, Mary R. Sanders, Milton and Anna Johnson, John McCaskill and Elisa L. Irvin, and James and Lulu Slaughter.

Sadly, not everyone in Manhattan Beach welcomed the Bruce's enterprise and its crowds of Black patrons in that era of Jim Crow laws and racial segregation.

The Bruce's, their patrons, and the other Black property owners in the area faced harassment, intimidation and discrimination by some, including City Hall. The ostensible purpose of these actions was to make Manhattan Beach inhospitable to Black residents and visitors.

Ultimately, enough White residents pressured the City Council to pretextually exercise its power of eminent domain to acquire the land for use as a public park. The City condemned the properties of Willa and Charles A. Bruce, Major George Prioleau and Mrs. Ethel Prioleau, Elizabeth Patterson, Mary R. Sanders, Milton and Anna Johnson. Twenty-five other White investor-owned properties that sat undeveloped between the Black owned properties were condemned as well.

The City's action at the time was racially motivated and wrong. Today, the City acknowledges, empathizes and condemns those past actions. We are not the Manhattan Beach of one hundred years ago. We reject racism, hate, intolerance and exclusion.

We offer this Acknowledgment, this plaque, and this park named in memory of Bruce's Beach, in recognition of Manhattan Beach's next one hundred years as a city of love, respect and inclusion.

Elyse

The biggest communication problem is that we do not listen to understand...we listen to reply

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: John Randolph <johnrando@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 3:34 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Bruce's Beach plaque language

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Begin forwarded message:

From: John Randolph <johnrando@verizon.net>
Subject: Bruce's Beach plaque language
Date: March 9, 2022 at 7:21:58 PM PST
To: citycouncil@manhattanbeach.gov
Cc: ityclerk@manhattanbeach.gov

Please do not white-wash the Bruce's Beach plaque language with a watered down explanation of what happened. Using Suzanne Hadley's new language does just that. In no way does telling the truth brand Manhattan Beach as racist. In fact, acknowledging what happened with that plaque shows that Manhattan Beach has progressed. Thank you. Long time resident, John Randolph.

You may use my comment in the public record.

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Jen Jenkins Dohner <jendohner@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 3:31 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Bruce's Beach Plaque Language
Attachments: IMG_20200710_203314.jpg; Collage 2021-05-06 10_23_09.jpg; Collage 2022-03-08 19_41_27.jpg; IMG-20220227-WA0004.jpg

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

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

From: Jen Jenkins Dohner <jendohner@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 10, 2022, 2:28 PM
Subject: Bruce's Beach Plaque Language
To: Hildy Stern <hstern@manhattanbeach.gov>, Steve Napolitano <snapolitano@manhattanbeach.gov>, Richard Montgomery <rmontgomery@manhattanbeach.gov>

Dear Esteemed Council Members-

In the early 1970's, my parents moved us to a brand new and developing on-the-water community called Discovery Bay. There were only 12 houses built at the time and we were the 9th residents. A small local newsletter welcomed me as the town's first baby. Over time my parents invested in the lot next door, and the lot next to that one too. The place was so empty when we first lived there that a nearby pilot frequently used the long main boulevard as a landing strip for his small plane. Now Discovery Bay has more than 15,000 residents. It's a rare and unusual perspective to be around at the very beginning of a place to watch a whole town develop around you.

Our on-the-water situation afforded us regular access to various sports of opportunity: kayaking, canoeing, waterskiing, wakeboarding, and windsurfing. Each weekend, we entertained friends to share our love and knowledge of these activities in this unique setting. When I visit there now, my daily exercise is to take a quiet morning stand-up paddle up and down the adjoining slough. My dog, Fin, and I love to watch for herons, egrets, and muskrats as we glide through the tules. Sometimes we will go out at dusk, as if to paddle straight into one of countless vivid sunsets over Mount Diablo. It's magical.

I have taken the time to describe this to you because it's my happy place. It's where I go in my mind to muster a sense of peace and calm. It's in my bones and it's part of my identity. I imagine my ashes will be scattered there, and I hope my descendents keep it for generations after I'm gone. I would have told you the same thing 40 years ago. I wouldn't dream of selling it. The size of the offer wouldn't matter. It's priceless to me. No one can have the connection to it that I have. No one alive has been there as long or spent as large a portion of their life under its spell than I. It's not just land. It's a legacy for my family.

I can only imagine how our lives might be different if this place were taken from us or if we were forced to sell it, especially if the action and related harassment was clearly meant to drive us from the area altogether. The prices for which it was bought and relinquished and what we did after the fact would be insufficient consolations and therefore irrelevant to that story. And, if it was taken in a wrongful or unjustifiable manner, that, in and of itself, *would be* the story.

The land, the value of contiguous lots, the pioneering interest in Manhattan Beach, the lodge structure, the unique entrepreneurial business, the significance of a beach access point for Black Southern Californians, the

difficulty for a Black family at that time to secure a property like it in the first place, the other Black families scattered from their homes, the Bruce family legacy itself, and countless other tiny details all made this property *priceless* to the Bruces. And the city is losing the relevant historical thread of the story if you represent this as a mere real-estate transaction.

Additionally, Council Member Hadley's proposed wording for the plaque is incorrect when referring to "25 white families" which never actually existed. More than two thirds of the 25 white owned lots were owned in batches by four partnered investors at the time. Relinquishing those lots was just a real estate transaction for them as they would have had no problem acquiring and profiting from the sale of lots elsewhere in the city. So if you want to make an actual comparative tally, 8 white families and 5 Black families individually owned lots in the park. 3 Black families and zero white families owned structures on those lots. The white families, who did not live there in the first place, did not suffer threats, harassment, legislative discrimination, and destruction of property as the Black landowner/ residents did.

This conflation combines with other mis-statements to minimize what actually happened. In comments made upon the adoption of the Revised Historical Report on 3/16/2021, Hadley said, "...The stated reason was to form a new park. The real reason was to snuff out a burgeoning [B]lack-owned business, which brought [B]lack guests and visitors to MB." Yet for the plaque she proposes to say, "In 1924, the Manhattan Beach Board of Trustees used eminent domain to seize the properties of Bruce's Lodge and neighboring landowners *to create a city park.*" Back on 3/16/2021, Hadley said, " I agree that racism was the primary reason for the city council of Manhattan Beach to start eminent domain proceedings against these families." In contrast, her plaque language reads, "At that time, several sources *alleged* the city's action was racially motivated..." after which it goes on to discuss compensation. The inconsistency between these statements clearly shows not only that the plaque language is incorrect, but that it is disingenuously so.

Finally, Hadley's version places a set of insidious parentheses around the whole business. By calling out at the beginning that the Lifeguard Headquarters is on county land, the city would appear to wash its hands of the Bruce's Beach history altogether, dismissing it as a county matter. By pointing out at the end that "no portion of the city park was ever owned by the Bruces..." Hadley's language appears to try to sever any connection between the green space of the Bruce's Beach park and the racially motivated actions of the city's past. The motive of these statements is revealed when we consider next week's agenda item regarding the city's Special Event Permitting policy. One of Hadley's most ardent supporters turned a dog whistle into a foghorn when she said on this topic: "Please do not let them do this [have a picnic celebrating the last weekend of Black History Month]. This is a [sic] further evidence the park must change its name - it cannot become a symbol because it has nothing to do with the Bruce[s]. ... It is about time to call this park with some other name, given that we know now it has nothing to do with the Bruce family - maybe this will help to restore the real purpose and significance of this park."

Hadley has made this suggestion to those seeking to add Bruce's Beach Park to the special events permit policy: "I'm in favor, for instance, of partnering with Supervisor Mitchel and the county for a joint annual Juneteenth event at the lifeguard station—the actual site of Bruce's Lodge. If we partner with the county, we can hold it on the property of the former Bruce's Lodge which is where the special significance originates. Plus, attendees would be closer to the bathrooms that face the Strand. And the beach itself was the purpose of Bruce's Lodge, so spillover attendees can enjoy the ocean view and ocean amenities from the beach itself." This suggestion is the first step in a master plan to remove cultural significance from Bruce's Beach park, and it explains why today's plaque language proposal is so whitewashed compared to her own statements nearly a year ago. It also explains why her incorrect use of the term "Bruce's Lodge" has become more prevalent.

For all of the reasons I've listed above, please reject Council Member Hadley's Plaque language and do not use it or any part of it as a template for what to put on the plaque. It's revisionist memory politics and does not belong in the consideration set. Furthermore, having attended cultural events at the park I can confidently say that these have been deeply mischaracterized by those opposed to them. Please do not engage in efforts afoot to strip relevant cultural significance from this park. Whatever you think might be achieved in doing this, it will backfire in any case. If you'd really like to honor the Bruces and others that were wrongfully driven from this park, then make it a place where, in the words of Willa Bruce, "...all are welcome." You just might do a slight repair to the reputation of Manhattan Beach in the process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

JEN JENKINS DOHNER

TEXT: 310.780.1780

ArtWithHeartByJenksy on Etsy

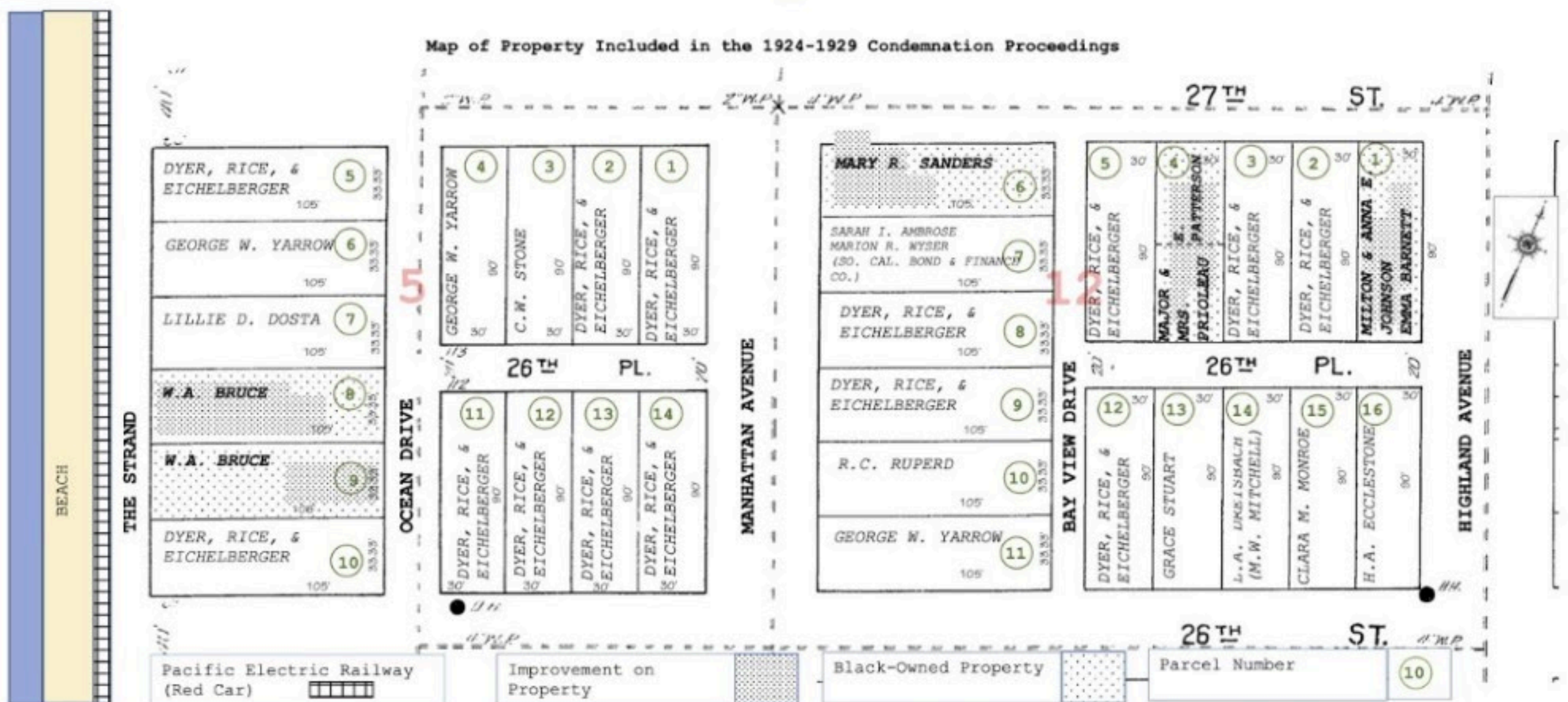




BRUCE'S BEACH: WHAT ABOUT THE "25 WHITE FAMILIES?"

There weren't 25 white families. More than 2/3 of the 25 white-owned lots were held in batches by just four owners. Eight other lots were individually owned and all of the white-owned lots remained undeveloped. The only structures on any land in the park belonged to Black families. White land owners did not suffer targeted threats, harassment, legislative discrimination, and destruction of property as Black land owners did.

①



For more information, visit <https://www.citymb.info/government/city-manager/bruce-s-beach-task-force>

SUZANNE HADLEY: THEN & NOW

"Most of us now understand the serious and wrong actions that were taken by the city of Manhattan Beach against two dozen MB families [sic] in the 1920's. Significantly about half dozen of the affected families were Black. I agree that racism was the primary reason for the city council of Manhattan Beach to start eminent domain proceedings against these families. The stated reason was to form a new park. The real reason was to snuff out a burgeoning black-owned business, which brought black guests and visitors to MB. My feeling is that in order to make the park justification seem plausible, 25 some families' land was seized when the rectangle park now known as Bruce's Beach.

I believe throwing in a couple dozen white families [sic] whose land was also seized helped some in the city feel better about what they were doing. I am sorry personally and as the current Manhattan Beach mayor for what transpired in my town between 1912 and 1929. It hurts my heart. I think it was wrong. I would not act that way and I pray my own adult children never would as well.

We are a nation of laws and, at the end of the day, the rule of law is all we have. It separates us from dictatorships. But we also know laws can be wrong. Plessy vs. Ferguson was the law back then that made segregation legal. Separate but equal was legal until mid-century. Other awful laws included the fugitive slave act, the Dred Scott Supreme Court Decisions, and others. Just because something is legal doesn't make it right.

In this case our City Council back then deliberated over months, documents were filed, the L.A. Superior Court was used. Law enforcement deployed and money changed hands for what was a thinly veiled, social-engineering effort.

It may have been legal but it doesn't pass the smell test today." - 3/16/2021

This county lifeguard Station sits on land previously owned by Willa and Charles Bruce who arrived in Manhattan Beach in 1912. Despite opposition to Blacks' owning land elsewhere in California, Willa and her husband purchased two lots in 1912 and 1920 for a total of \$1,235 and built a successful beach resort for the black community. Other Black families moved to the area around Bruce's Lodge and bought permanent homes or summer cottages. Thirty families, (25 White and 5 Black) owned property near Bruce's Lodge.

In 1924 the Manhattan Beach Board of Trustees used eminent domain to seize the properties of Bruce's Lodge and neighboring landowners to create a city park. At that time, several sources alleged the city's action was racially motivated. All landowners were compensated for the seizure. As the only full-time residents in this area, and the only owners of a business, the Bruce's received \$14,500, the largest portion of the legal settlement.

Four of the five families bought property elsewhere in Manhattan Beach. However, Willa and Charles Bruce moved to Los Angeles in 1927, where they purchased three properties. The area formerly known as Bruce's Lodge, and the surrounding parcels, were developed into a city park after the Great Depression and World War II. Although no portion of the city park was ever owned by the Bruces, the Park was renamed Bruce's Beach Park in 2007 as a remembrance and tribute to the family. - 3/10/2022





Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Bill Fournell <fournwi@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 2:28 PM
To: List - City Council; City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Plaque Language

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members and City Clerk

I strongly encourage the city council to utilize the well-researched language proposed by the History Advisory Board as the starting point for creating the language on the plaque. As noted in the City Council Statement of Acknowledgment, Condemnation, and Empathy regarding Bruce's Beach, which you approved on April 6, 2021, you accepted that the eminent domain action was racially motivated. This fact should be included on the plaque. Councilmember Hadley's draft language is a completely unacceptable whitewashing of the truth. I encourage you to draft language that is direct, frank, and fact based.

Sincerely
Bill Fournell

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Birkel, Julia L. <jbirkel@hfbllp.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 2:18 PM
To: List - City Council; City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Steve Napolitano's Bruce's Beach Plaque Language

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Stern, Councilmembers, and City Clerk,

I write to fully support Councilmember Steve Napolitano's proposed plaque language, as follows:

After being turned away from other coastal cities, Willa and Charles Bruce purchased property along the Strand in Manhattan Beach to create a beach resort for the area's Black community on February 19, 1912. By 1916, the resort known as "Bruce's Beach" was a thriving fixture for visiting Blacks, with a restaurant, dancehall, changing rooms and showers.

Soon after, several other Black families purchased property and built homes where this park is now, including Major George Prioleau and Mrs. Ethel Prioleau, Elizabeth Patterson, Mary R. Sanders, Milton and Anna Johnson, John McCaskill and Elisa L. Irvin, and James and Lulu Slaughter.

Sadly, not everyone in Manhattan Beach welcomed the Bruce's enterprise and its crowds of Black patrons in that era of Jim Crow laws and racial segregation.

The Bruce's, their patrons, and the other Black property owners in the area faced harassment, intimidation and discrimination by some, including City Hall. The ostensible purpose of these actions was to make Manhattan Beach inhospitable to Black residents and visitors.

Ultimately, enough White residents pressured the City Council to pretextually exercise its power of eminent domain to acquire the land for use as a public park. The City condemned the properties of Willa and Charles A. Bruce, Major George Prioleau and Mrs. Ethel Prioleau, Elizabeth Patterson, Mary R. Sanders, Milton and Anna Johnson. Twenty-five other White investor-owned properties that sat undeveloped between the Black owned properties were condemned as well.

The City's action at the time was racially motivated and wrong. Today, the City acknowledges, empathizes and condemns those past actions. We are not the Manhattan Beach of one hundred years ago. We reject racism, hate, intolerance and exclusion.

We offer this Acknowledgment, this plaque, and this park named in memory of Bruce's Beach, in recognition of Manhattan Beach's next one hundred years as a city of love, respect and inclusion.

Regards,
Julie Birkel
30+ year resident of Manhattan Beach



Julia L. Birkel | Partner | Hill, Farrer & Burrill LLP
One California Plaza | 300 So. Grand Ave., 37th Fl. | Los Angeles, CA 90071
Dir: 213.621.0857 | Main: 213.620.0460

jbirkel@hillfarrer.com | www.hillfarrer.com | [v card](#) | 

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Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Leanne Meyers <leannemeyers@mac.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 2:12 PM
To: List - City Council
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Tonight's meeting in regards to Bruce's Beach plaque language.

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good day,

I am writing to encourage the City Council to adopt the Bruce's Beach language that you approved on April 6, 2021. This accepts that the eminent domain action was racially motivated. This language should be included on the plaque.

I encourage the Council to use the well researched language proposed by the History Advisory Board as the starting point for the language on the plaque.

Please deny with all due respect the language proposed by Council member Hadley which is in direct opposition to her own statements from March 16th of last year.

Thank you,

Leanne Meyers

Leanne Meyers |
1601 N. Sepulveda Blvd. #635
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
O: 310-796-0536 | C: 310-500-7417

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Brenda O'Leary <brendajoleary@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 2:12 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Updated - Please approve Steve Napolitano's language

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello all,

I'm writing to request you please reject Suzanne Hadley's attempt at white washing history when it comes to Bruce's Beach. I believe community members have provided accurate facts that represent the true situation, and I believe it's in the best interest of our community to speak the truth.

I approve of the language offered by Steve Napolitano, which I believe accurately represents both the past and the present.

Thank you for your service,

Brenda O'Leary

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Marilyn Scott <marilynscott@mac.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 2:09 PM
To: List - City Council
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruces Beach Plack

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Manhattan Beach City Council,

I am writing in support of the advised, History Advisory Board, that uses the language from April 6th, in connection to the proposed Bruce Beach plack. An honest account of history rewards us all in learning about the past and doing better for our future. Don't pass on an oppertuntiy to right the many wrongs of yesterday.

With respect, Marilyn Scott

1141 8th Street

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Brenda O'Leary <brendajoleary@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 2:04 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Plaque Language - Please reject SHH version

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello all,

I'm writing to request you please reject Suzanne Hadley's attempt at white washing history when it comes to Bruce's Beach. I believe community members have provided accurate facts that represent the true situation, and I believe it's in the best interest of our community to speak the truth.

Cheers,

Brenda O'Leary

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Karen Roseman <karen661@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 2:02 PM
To: List - City Council
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Plaque
Attachments: image0.jpeg; ATT00001.txt

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the MB City Council,

I am writing regarding the wording on the plaque to be installed at Bruce's Beach. I am asking you to not use the language that Suzanne Hadley proposes. The wording must not try to distort and sanitize what occurred but should use the language of the History Advisory Board and acknowledge that racism was responsible for the eminent domain proceedings used against the families.

Once again I must relate this to my family's experience in Nazi Germany. Here is a memorial plaque that has been placed on my mothers childhood home, which was attacked on what is known as Crystal Night. It clearly states what happened to the family and who was responsible. This in no way makes me feel that the present people of the town are anti semitic, in fact it makes me feel the opposite. Acknowledging the wrongful acts perpetrated by our city 100 years ago is a commitment to ensure it does not happen again.

Wohnhaus der Kaufmannsfamilie Friedrich Hirsch



Das Haus Sandeldamm 26 war von 1927 bis 1938 im Eigentum der jüdischen Kaufmannsfamilie Hirsch, Teilhaber des Hanauer Bekleidungsgeschäfts Berger & Schmelzer in der Nürnberger Straße / Ecke Rosenstraße.

Friedrich Hirsch (1889 Wehrheim / Usingen – 1974 New York) war mit Dina Jüngster (1901 Tann – 1980 Los Angeles) verheiratet.

Ihre Tochter Ilse (1926 Hanau – 2016 Los Angeles) besuchte die Oberschule für Mädchen in Hanau, später das Philanthropin in Frankfurt am Main.

Hirschs Ladengeschäft und Wohnhaus wurden in der Reichspogromnacht am 10. November 1938 von NS-Schergen verwüstet.

Die Familie floh nach Frankfurt am Main, konnte 1939 nach London auswandern und siedelte 1946 in die USA über.

Friedrichs Mutter Jeanette, 24. Mai 1861 geb. Bendheim in Wehrheim, wurde am 18. August 1942 von Frankfurt aus in das Ghetto Theresienstadt verschleppt, wo sie am 8. September 1942 umkam.

Patenschaft der Gedenktafel:

Magistrat der Brüder-Grimm-Stadt Hanau und Ortsbeirat Hanau-Innenstadt

Fotografien: Familienbesitz Hirsch / Simon / Roseman, Stadtarchiv Hanau

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Amy Delgado <amyhd@mac.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 2:02 PM
To: List - City Council
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach plaque

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I want to encourage council to **REJECT** Suzanne Hadley's sanitized language for the Bruce's Beach plaque. Please remember that the [Statement of Acknowledgment, Condemnation, and Empathy regarding Bruce's Beach](#), which you approved on April 6, 2021, accepts that the eminent domain action was racially motivated and the plaque should include that information and acknowledgement.

Please adopt the language of the History Advisory Board!!

Amy Heinz Delgado
2401 N. Poinsettia Ave.

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Birkel, Julia L. <jbirkel@hfbllp.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 1:54 PM
To: List - City Council; City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Plaque Language

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Stern, Councilmembers, and City Clerk,
Please reject Councilmember Hadley's proposed language for the Bruce's Beach Plaque. It appears to be another effort to censor – this time censoring the history of our town to make everything seem bright and shiny. The history committee put in weeks of scholarly work to uncover the facts, and presented it in a report that was accepted by the City.
To my knowledge all of you have acknowledged the racist motivation for the wrongful eminent domain proceedings against the Bruce family.
To now implicitly deny our ignominious past with a white-washed replacement will do more harm than good.
Thank you very much for your consideration,
Julie Birkel
30+ year resident of Manhattan Beach



Julia L. Birkel | Partner | Hill, Farrer & Burrill LLP
One California Plaza | 300 So. Grand Ave., 37th Fl. | Los Angeles, CA 90071
Dir: 213.621.0857 | Main: 213.620.0460
jbirkel@hillfarrer.com | www.hillfarrer.com | [v card](#) | 

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Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Deborah Blair Porter <deborah.blair.porter@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 1:29 PM
To: List - City Council
Cc: City Clerk; Hildy Stern; Steve Napolitano; Richard Montgomery; Joe Franklin; Suzanne Hadley; Deborah Blair Porter
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 1. 22-0112 Consideration of the Language for and Placement of Plaques at Bruce's Beach

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council -

Our community has spent the past two years examining events in Manhattan Beach that occurred a century ago in a time and context of racism, acts specifically intended to deprive citizens of the United States, California and even Manhattan Beach, of rightfully owned property based on their race. Unfortunately, such events were all too frequent at the time, as land and businesses belonging to Black citizens were systematically taken from them through acts, including eminent domain actions, that were contrary to our Constitution's principles, intended to exert power and control who could buy property.

This is not just what the Bruce's Beach "History Advisory Board" reported. This is the well-documented history of Los Angeles's newly formed all-white real estate boards, including the Los Angeles Realty Board, which organized the land industry in California in the early 1900's to control who could buy land through the recording of racial covenants.

<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2021-09-10/racial-covenants-los-angeles-pioneered>.

This is not as Councilmember Hadley's proposed language would have the public believe, just "several sources" alleging the acts in Manhattan Beach were "racially motivated." This is the documented truth about what occurred in that time throughout the Los Angeles region, in a systematic effort to deprive California and US citizens of their rights under the law, based on their race.

Making the point on any plaque commemorating Bruce's Beach that what occurred was a function of racism is not only appropriate it is factual and historical, as painful as that may be. It is what the history of Los Angeles and Manhattan Beach reveals. In order for our community to mark what occurred and move forward, the Bruce's Beach Plaque should document the facts and the context of the times, in all their starkness. We should not hide the facts or think we can hide from them by using language whose political purpose is to gloss over responsibility, excuse past acts or attempt to soften their motive or harm.

The Bruce's Beach History Advisory Board Report revealed the failure of past city councils to directly address and name these facts, which unfortunately has allowed some in our community to persist in ignoring the truth of our collective past, including that racism was the impetus for what happened to the Bruces and other families.

<https://www.manhattanbeach.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/48336/637714452765370000>. While some in our community continue to want to whitewash that history, let's not hide behind the excuses and justifications that are nothing but a function and reflection of current political winds blowing.

On April 6, 2021 the City Council approved the "Statement of Acknowledgment, Condemnation and Empathy regarding Bruce's Beach" which accepted that the eminent domain action was racially motivated. Therefore, that information needs to be a part of the plaque. It is confounding that almost a year later some on our City Council wish to ignore these facts and take up time rehashing historical facts, as if time or revisiting them will change anything.

Elected officials are duty bound to represent their constituents. In small communities like Manhattan Beach, it is my understanding council members represent the entire community and thus should act in a manner representing the opinions and best interests of the entire community. I believe our City's residents expect the City Council to act collectively as responsible elected officials, not reflect attitudes that allowed what happened with Bruce's Beach to occur in the first place. Our city council can move forward by facing the

past, including mistakes that were made and learn from them and avoid making them again. Start by speaking the truth, plainly.

Please – PLEASE – use the language the History Advisory Board suggested as the basis for the Bruce’s Beach plaque and make it accurate and truthful. Do what is in the best interest of the city and our community by proceeding with truth as the basis.

Thank you all for your efforts on behalf of our city.

Deborah Blair Porter

1156 5th Street

Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

(310) 379-0386; (310) 977-5377 (cell)

Email: deborah.blair.porter@gmail.com

Cc: hstern@manhattanbeach.gov

snapolitano@manhattanbeach.gov

rmontgomery@manhattanbeach.gov

jfranklin@manhattanbeach.gov

shadley@manhattanbeach.gov

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Laura Kiely <laurakiely@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 12:34 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Language for Bruce's Beach plaque

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council members,

- Please deny the Bruce's Beach plaque language proposed by Councilmember Suzanne Hadley which is in direct opposition to her own statements from March 16 of last year: Her new language sanitizes and distorts the history of Bruce's Beach.
- The City's statement of Acknowledgment, Condemnation, and Empathy regarding Bruce's Beach accepts that eminent domain action was racially motivated, and the plaque should acknowledge this.
- I support using the well-researched language proposed by the History Advisory Committee for creating the language on the plaque. Or, I support using the HAC's language as a starting point for creating new language for the plaque. If we do not acknowledge the racism behind the eminent domain action, we will be covering up the truth, and **that** will brand us as racist.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Laura Kiely

Resident of Manhattan Beach since 1994

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Katja Newman <katja@lacienegavineyard.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 11:45 AM
To: List - City Council; City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Plaque

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council Members,

I strongly urge you to please use the well-researched language proposed by the History Advisory Board as the starting point for creating the language on the Bruce's Beach plaque. Councilmember Suzanne Hadley does not represent the views of our city and her language and actions are divisive and inconsistent. We need to unite as a city and acknowledge the past. Many hours have been dedicated to researching and memorializing this unfortunate history. I request that you deny the plaque language adopted by Councilmember Hadley. We can do better.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
-Katja

KATJA NEWMAN (HER/SHE), MANAGING PARTNER

LA CIENEGA VINEYARD, LLC

WWW.LACIENEGAVINEYARD.COM

(310) 658-0259



Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: daegelesmom <daegelesmom@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 11:26 AM
To: List - City Council
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Plaque Language

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I support the usage of Bruce's Beach Plaque language that is in line with the results of the History Advisory Board report which says the eminent domain act of 1924 was racially motivated. It is crucial for us to acknowledge the historical truth.

Thank you for your consideration.

Diane Daegele

MB Resident since 1997

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Helen Codron <hcodron@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 11:04 AM
To: List - City Council; City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Language/Bruce's Beach Plaque

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I'm writing to urge City Council to vote down the language proposed by Councilmember Suzanne Hadley for the plaque at Bruce's Beach.

Rather than being an unbiased, well-balanced recounting of history, it's a distortion and obfuscation of the reality that the City's eminent domain action was racially motivated.

Phrases like: "Despite opposition to Blacks' (sic) owning land elsewhere in California, Willa and her husband purchased two lots..." hijack the entire purpose of the plaque—to bring to light the obstacles and discrimination Black people faced in our community. Instead, the connotation is that in Manhattan Beach, the Bruces found opportunity not available elsewhere. An honest and complete accounting of the facts, of course, reveals that this was not the case; after purchasing the land and establishing a thriving business, the Bruces were forced out.

Councilmember Hadley's proposed language is in direct contradiction to the Statement of Acknowledgement, Condemnation, and Empathy approved by Council on April 6, 2021 that accepts that the eminent domain action was racially motivated; this KEY fact should be included on the plaque.

I simply don't understand this latest effort to whitewash our community's history. Where is the courage to face our past mistakes? To educate ourselves, others and the generations that come after, so we can move farther down the road towards racial justice?

I urge City Council to use the exhaustively researched and documented language proposed by the History Advisory Board as its starting point for creating the language for the plaque/s.

Thank you.

Helen Codron
Manhattan Beach, CA

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Lana Rizika <lanarizika@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 10:58 AM
To: List - City Council
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Plaque Language

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Stern and Councilmembers,

You have agreed to write a new plaque for Bruce's Beach because the current one does not accurately tell its history. The existing plaque omits key historical facts and radically distorts those it does include. A new plaque therefore must include certain essential facts so that this story is told accurately and completely.

One such fact is that the eminent domain act, which forced the Bruce's and other families off their land, was racially motivated. This is not disputed; the History Advisory Board's history report, written after months of intensive research and fact-checked by experts, and later adopted by City Council, verifies the racial roots of that act of eminent domain. At the March 16, 2021 City Council meeting, then-Mayor Hadley attested to that truth, stating,

*"...I agree that **racism** was the primary reason for the city council of Manhattan Beach to start eminent domain proceedings against these families. The stated reason was to form a new park. The real reason was to snuff out a burgeoning black-owned business, which brought black guests and visitors to MB."*

Later, on April 6, 2021, City Council issued its Statement of Acknowledgment, Condemnation, and Empathy regarding Bruce's Beach, which states,

*"The City of Manhattan Beach formally Acknowledges, Empathizes, and Condemns: The City's **racially motivated** eminent domain action to dispossess Willa and Charles A. Bruce, Major George and Mrs. Ethel Prioleau, Elizabeth Patterson, Mary R. Sanders, Milton and Anna Johnson, as well as White property owners, of their property."*

This critical part of the history, that the act of eminent domain was racially motivated, **must** be included in the plaque language. It is at this story's root.

So far, one plaque language proposal has been made public, written by Councilmember Hadley. Her proposal, however, must be completely ignored, for, like the existing plaque, she outrightly excludes key historical facts

and grossly misrepresents others. You have at your disposal the full HAB history report which thoroughly documents the events that led up to the eminent domain act and its aftermath. Please use that as your source for writing the plaque language without omitting or sanitizing this story; yes, the truth may be uncomfortable to some of you, but the truth is what needs to be told.

Councilmembers, please think about the gravity of this plaque language. Not only are you charged with telling the verified history of Bruce's Beach, but you are at the same time setting an example of how a city can come to terms with the horrific, racially-motivated wrongdoings of its past. With accurate, truthful plaque language, you will educate our residents and visitors and model how we, as a city, can learn from our mistakes. It is not by ignoring, hiding, or denying the truth, but by confidently explaining exactly what happened and accepting it that we can proudly demonstrate we understand what took place 100 years ago, and will never let racially-motivated acts happen again in our city.

Thank you for your honest efforts in this process.

Kind regards,

Lana Rizika

Former member of Bruce's Beach Task Force

27 year resident of Manhattan Beach

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Susan Bales <susanb@frameworksinstitute.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 10:57 AM
To: List - City Council
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Hadley and Members of the City Council,

I offer these comments in the context of my gratitude to the City Council for attempting to earnestly address the challenge of the Bruce's Beach plaque. I encourage the Council to go the next step and secure the services of people who do this kind of historical interpretation for a living.

There are reasons that public landmarks are best written by public historians. History is not simply a recitation of facts. It requires perspective and context if it is to speak to successive generations removed from the event. Distilling the voluminous information collected by the History Advisory Board requires expertise. That expertise is best acquired through scholarly training and experience. It should not be attempted by even the most well-intentioned laypeople. With all due respect, the draft submitted for review at tonight's Council meeting is inadequate. With at least two storied departments of history nearby – UCLA and USC – why is the Council taking on this task?

This is an act of public interpretation that must be satisfactory to a wide range of people of diverse politics and backgrounds. It must stand the test of time. And it must remind us to be better people. The current draft does not meet these tests.

Please do not allow Manhattan Beach to be branded as The Little Town That Couldn't – couldn't face its own history, couldn't make amends. Please take advantage of the resources that you have readily available to you, to ensure that the next chapter of this history is one that makes us all proud as citizens of this city.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Nall Bales

Manhattan Beach resident

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Laura H. Kainsinger <lalysix@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 10:53 AM
To: List - City Council; City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please ensure the historical accuracy of the plaque at Bruce's Beach

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Stern and City Councilmembers:

I value the time and effort you will spend discussing the Bruce's Beach plaque language; it is for this reason that I strongly urge you to make sure the language is not only accurate but honors the African American families that lived on this land 100 years ago.

After reading the proposed language by Councilmember Hadley, I am left wondering what sources of information she used. She writes, "Thirty families (25 White and 5 Black) owned property near Bruce's Lodge." This is not factually accurate, as 12 White property owners owned the 25 lots in question (see Map of Property included in the 1924-1929 Condemnation Proceedings – [Bruce's Beach Taskforce: History Subcommittee Report](#)). Therefore, at most 12 White families were affected. Although, further research would show that most White-owned lots were owned by investors, not families. I use this example not to discredit Councilmember Hadley but to emphasize that facts matter. I have heard Councilmember Hadley express her dedication to being fiscally responsible; I too am concerned about fiscal responsibility, and fear that if the plaque language is inaccurate, taxpayers' money will be wasted as it will inevitably have to be redone, yet again.

Lastly, I cannot underscore enough that the plaque must include language addressing the racial motivation behind the condemnation proceedings. This has already been acknowledged in both the Bruce's Beach Task Force: History Subcommittee Report and [the Statement of Acknowledgment, Condemnation, and Empathy regarding Bruce's Beach](#), why not here?

The City Council has the power to close this chapter of Manhattan Beach's history right here and now, please embrace this opportunity and don't leave it up to future City Councils to fix your missteps.

Respectfully,

Laura Hoyos Kainsinger
Manhattan Beach Resident
Former Member of the Bruce's Beach Taskforce

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Audrey Ritterman Estes <are@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 10:48 AM
To: City Clerk
Cc: Audrey Ritterman Estes
Subject: [EXTERNAL] There is one thing that has always baffled me????

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

**There
Is one thing that has always baffled me???**

As A child, I heard stories of how my grandparents and father escape from their homeland. They spoke the language ,understood the culture... it was the only lifestyle they ever knew before coming to America. And not once did I ever heard them say “ We want to go back to live there”.

So I desperately try to understand why the Bruce’s ancestors want to claim this park as their sacred land and the Bruce’s Bath house didn’t even resides there.

Through my eyes, if Manhattan Beach was such a horrible place, so detrimental ,so evil ,so racist why would the present day family want those stories of the past haunting them.

Then I questioned, that what truly happened to the Bruce’s and why did they settle in Manhattan Beach in the first place. Maybe, Manhattan Beach was that shiny beacon on the hill back in 1920 during the Jim Crow era. Maybe, Manhattan Beach was where anyone could start their own business and owe their own home no matter what race, gender or religion.

But when the Bruce’s family along with many others landowner where displaced, I believe the families were fairly compensated .

Madame Mayo I can image your head shaking back and forth in disbelief reading this letter.

Well, that’s how some MB residents feel when they read what is on the Manhattan Beach website from the HAB, I believe the truth it’s not black-and-white but it is very very grey.

You, City Council have the responsibility to this city to protect its truthful past.

So tell the WHOLE story not just the one that dictates a political agenda.

You are the only voices that Manhattan Beach has, protect it’s history and it’s future (in other words please presents the whole truth)

But if you truly don’t know what happened, you need to hire a professional historian.

Please listen to your conscience.

Thank you

35 year resident
And a child of a holocaust survivor

Hey just a thought..

why don't we rename the park to" Eminent Domain park" because everyone can relate to that name and it might bring UNITY to this small beach town....

have a wonderful day.

ARE

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Cecilia Ball <cball6@earthlink.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 10:01 AM
To: List - City Council
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Plaque Language

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to ask the City Council to deny the Plaque language proposed by Councilmember Hadley. Her proposed language sanitizes and distorts the history of Bruce's Beach.

The Statement of Acknowledgement, Condemnation, and Empathy regarding Bruce's Beach, which was approved by the city council on April 6, 2021 is the language that should be on the plaque.

Everyone, whether they vocalize it or not, understands that the actions taken by the city of Manhattan Beach against two dozen MB families in the 1920's were racially motivated. Eminent domain proceedings against these families were initiated to snuff out a burgeoning black-owned business, which brought black guests and visitors to MB. Those are the facts.

The History Advisory Board did an excellent job of researching history and crafting the language for the plaque. The City Council, who formed this advisory board, should make use of their good work.

Opposition to mentioning that racism existed in Manhattan Beach is as ridiculous as Florida passing the "Don't say Gay" bill; or Poland passing legislation that makes it a crime to mention their participation in the Holocaust; or Putin passing legislation making it illegal to call his invasion of Ukraine an invasion or a war.

I have lived in Manhattan Beach since 1972 and have seen it change from all white to more racially diverse. I refuse to believe that Manhattan Beach as a city, is so insecure it cannot face the reality of its past.

Cecilia Ball

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Dawn Tamir <dawntamir@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 9:41 AM
To: List - City Council
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach plaque language

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I support adopting the Bruce's beach plaque language that says eminent domain was racially motivated.

I oppose the most recent language used by Councilmember Hadley denying any racial motivation.

I do however, support her earlier comments stating: " Most of us now understand the serious and wrong actions that were taken by the city of Manhattan Beach against two dozen MB families in the 1920's. Significantly about half dozen of the affected families were Black. I agree that racism was the primary reason for the city council of Manhattan Beach to start eminent domain proceedings against these families. The stated reason was to form a new park. The real reason was to snuff out a burgeoning black-owned business, which brought black guests and visitors to MB."

Let us come clean, finally after a century, about what indeed occurred and not sanitize nor distort the history surrounding Bruce's Beach.

The Statement of Acknowledgment, Condemnation, and Empathy regarding Bruce's Beach, which they approved on April 6, 2021, accepts that the eminent domain action was racially motivated, and this should be included on the plaque.

Please use the well-researched language proposed by the History Advisory Board as the starting point for creating the language on the plaque.

I cannot believe that after the most recent 8, yes 8 now, antisemitic incidences that just occurred in the past couple of months that we can't even acknowledge racism here from 100 years ago. How will we ever grow and fight this hatred today if we can't even cop up to it 100 years ago? Shall we deny that the these most recent events occurred as well? That it was simply a glorification of being white and christian vs being anti-Jewish? Come on, enough of this nonsense and let's move on to the pressing and growing hatred that is occurring today!

Dawn Tamir
8 yr resident

Sent from my iPhone

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Jennifer Yamamoto <terryandjenyamamoto@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 9:27 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach plaque

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am writing to insist that the wording on the BB plaque is historically accurate. It needs to include the fact that the eminent domain act of 1924 was racially motivated.

By trying to whitewash history on top of not offering an apology to the Bruce family only makes our city look more racist.

Please do the right thing

Jennifer Yamamoto
52 year resident

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Nicole Brozost <nicolebrozost@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 9:01 AM
To: List - City Council
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach plaque

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Stern and City Councilmembers,

I am writing to urge you to deny the plaque language that has been proposed by Councilmember Hadley. There are omissions in this language which does not tell our whole truth about Manhattan Beach. The Statement of Acknowledgment, Condemnation, and Empathy regarding Bruce's Beach, which was approved in April, accepts that there was racial motivation for the eminent domain action, and this should be included on the plaque.

Please use the well researched language proposed by the History Advisory Board. It is so important to acknowledge the facts of our history, so we can move on and create a better world for our children.

Thank you for your time.

Nicole Brozost
Manhattan Beach resident

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Cecilia Ball <cball6@earthlink.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 10:01 AM
To: List - City Council
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Plaque Language

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I have lived in Manhattan Beach since 1972 and have seen it change from all white to more racially diverse. I refuse to believe that Manhattan Beach as a city, is so insecure it cannot face the reality of its past.

Cecilia Ball

Martha Alvarez, MMC

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To: List - City Council
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach plaque language

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I support adopting the Bruce's beach plaque language that says eminent domain was racially motivated.

I oppose the most recent language used by Councilmember Hadley denying any racial motivation.

I do however, support her earlier comments stating: " Most of us now understand the serious and wrong actions that were taken by the city of Manhattan Beach against two dozen MB families in the 1920's. Significantly about half dozen of the affected families were Black. I agree that racism was the primary reason for the city council of Manhattan Beach to start eminent domain proceedings against these families. The stated reason was to form a new park. The real reason was to snuff out a burgeoning black-owned business, which brought black guests and visitors to MB."

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Dawn Tamir
8 yr resident

Sent from my iPhone

Martha Alvarez, MMC

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Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 9:01 AM
To: List - City Council
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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach plaque

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Please use the well researched language proposed by the History Advisory Board. It is so important to acknowledge the facts of our history, so we can move on and create a better world for our children.

Thank you for your time.

Nicole Brozost
Manhattan Beach resident

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Jon Chaykowski <rideformbef@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 7:15 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach plaque wording

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council Members,

One add: Even if the County does their plaque on their own, without any input from MB, that does not justify MB erecting a "similar" plaque.

MB does not win in any scenario of two plaques on same topic near one another.

Redundant plaques are foolish, foolish, foolish.

Sincerely,
Jon C.

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Gary Osterhout <garyosterhout@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 7:08 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Plaque

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Councilmembers:

With the exception of a few tweaks, I'm OK with the HAB language, but only to the respect that it helps the residents of M.B. in reconciliation and healing.

In your deliberations, consider the following from this interview (Greater LA, KCRW, Steve Chiotakis) with the descendants of the Bruce's (following from Anthony Bruce's interview with Lester Holt, NBC), after the county greenlighted the land return. It doesn't seem the descendants are interested in any reconciliation and healing in respect to our current community.

Greater LA, NPR, 10/5/21

Steve Chiotakis. You heard Anthony Bruce, Chief, earlier talk about, you know, being robbed of dignity, robbed of integrity, **but he also went on to tell NBC do you think it would be any different today. He went, like, you know, I mean ... 'yeah it was all about the money and all that but if we were going to set up shop again along the beachfront, I'm not sure it would be any different.'** Actually, in fact he was more certain about it. **It wouldn't be any different than it was in 1924.**

Chief Duane Yellow Feather Shepard. Right.

Chiotakis: What do you think about that?

Shepard: Well, only ½ % of the population of Manhattan Beach is African American, first of all so that is quite telling in itself. But yes, I mean, some of the people who came out against us before we got started asking for money or anything just because we brought the issue up in the public again you know these are people who are the descendants of the people who did those these horrible acts to Charles and Willa Bruce and their family and the other African American families there in Manhattan Beach. These are the people that got generational wealth from these criminal acts. And, therefore, they should pay restitution because for what they are benefitting from we are still suffering from . So to move there In an atmosphere like that, you know, **any African American with any sense would say well "no" I don't think I'm just going to right back into an enclave of people who are descendants of the KKK and are still behaving in that manner.** So, yes, we still have reservations about it.

Regards,

Gary Osterhout

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Diana Skaar <dianaskaar@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 11:17 PM
To: List - City Council; City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Do not cherry-pick facts for the Bruce's Beach plaque

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Stern and Citycouncilmembers,

Please reject Councilmember's Hadley proposal for the Bruce's Beach Plaque which is a whitewashed attempt at sticking to "just the facts."

As a minority, I know how awful it feels to have your truths sugar-coated into feel-good stories of "*and yet she persisted.*"

The Manhattan Beach of 2022 is not the Manhattan Beach of 100 years ago. Do not be afraid of embracing the truths that have been uncovered by the Bruce's Beach History Report which the City Council adopted. You have an opportunity to educate and inspire with our city's self-awareness in **acknowledging and condemning** our painful racist pasts, so that we can move forward and unite to do better. That is the American way.

--

Diana Skaar

MB Resident and parent of 2 young kids who are watching how our City leaders will act

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Patricia Torrey <trish.torrey@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 10:52 PM
To: List - City Council; City Clerk; Hildy Stern; Joe Franklin; Richard Montgomery; Suzanne Hadley; Steve Napolitano
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Deny Suzanne Hadley's proposed Bruce's Beach Plaque language

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Stern and City Councilmembers,

Racism existed 100 years ago and it exists now. To allow ourselves to heal, grow and evolve, we need to truthfully acknowledge our racist past.

Please deny the Bruce's Beach plaque language proposed by Councilmember Hadley. Hadley's proposed language blatantly interjects her own opinion at the expense of describing the racist history of our past. If we can't acknowledge our racist past, we are perpetuating it. The eminent domain action was clearly racially motivated and that information should be represented on the plaque.

If you were writing about a fire, you'd mention what ignited that fire. You wouldn't just say a fire happened and we put it out. By not including the fact that racism is what ignited the seizure of the Bruce's property, we are kidding ourselves.

The History Advisory Board has given you language, please review that and work with it.

Please show your humanity by being on the right side of history. Don't let one council member's opinion taint the desires of our community to move forward in our healing.

Thanks in advance for listening to the voices of your community.

With Gratitude and Respect,
Patricia Riordan Torrey
Manhattan Beach, CA
trish.torrey@me.com

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Patricia Torrey <trish.torrey@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 10:52 PM
To: List - City Council; City Clerk; Hildy Stern; Joe Franklin; Richard Montgomery; Suzanne Hadley; Steve Napolitano
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Deny Suzanne Hadley's proposed Bruce's Beach Plaque language

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Stern and City Councilmembers,

Racism existed 100 years ago and it exists now. To allow ourselves to heal, grow and evolve, we need to truthfully acknowledge our racists past.

Please deny the Bruce's Beach plaque language proposed by Councilmember Hadley. Hadley's proposed language blatantly interjects her own opinion at the expense of describing the racist history of our past. If we can't acknowledge our racist past, we are perpetuating it. The eminent domain action was clearly racially motivated and that information should be represented on the plaque.

If you were writing about a fire, you'd mention what ignited that fire. You wouldn't just say a fire happened and we put it out. By not including the fact that racism is what ignited the seizure of the Bruce's property, we are kidding ourselves.

The History Advisory Board has given you language, please review that and work with it.

Please show your humanity by being on the right side of history. Don't let one council member's opinion taint the desires of our community to move forward in our healing.

Thanks in advance for listening to the voices of your community.

With Gratitude and Respect,
Patricia Riordan Torrey
Manhattan Beach, CA
trish.torrey@me.com

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: cdavidson923@verizon.net
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 9:41 PM
To: List - City Council
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Preserve the Truth in the Bruce's Beach Plaque

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Members of the Manhattan Beach City Council;

As a concerned and involved citizen of Manhattan Beach I am writing to urge you to adopt truthful language about the actual historical events for the plaque at Bruce's Beach.

It is a well-researched and clearly established fact that the eminent domain act of 1924, which displaced Black property owners in our city, was racially motivated. Less than a year ago, you approved the Statement of Acknowledgment, Condemnation and Empathy Regarding Bruce's Beach. The History Advisory Board provided us with well-researched facts and language to serve as the basis for memorializing this occurrence. We should use their well-chosen, accurate wording.

Sanitizing and distorting the truth about this shameful episode in Manhattan Beach history would double down on the wrong that occurred here almost 100 years ago. It's time to take responsibility for the racially motivated decisions of city leadership at the time, and honestly confront and take responsibility for what happened. If we do not acknowledge the racism behind the eminent domain act, we will be covering up the truth and committing yet another act of racism.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Davidson

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: OMS117 Info <info@oms117.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 9:25 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Plaque Language

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I am emailing my support of plaque language which accurately reflects the actions taken against the Bruce Family, 100 years ago.

Fact: The city of Manhattan Beach used the false premise of eminent domain, to take the land and business cultivated by the Bruce Family

Fact: This action by the city, permanently and irreparably harmed the Bruce family for generations thereafter.

Fact: The motivation behind this action was directly related to intolerance and racism against Black Americans by residents and the city council of Manhattan Beach.

While the desire to white-wash our history may appease residents who do not wish to recognize that the inhabitants of this city used race as a motivator to push out Black Americans, failing to accept and acknowledge the motivation is tantamount to painting slavery as an "American workers program".

If we acknowledge the sins of our fathers, we stand a chance of not repeating them.

Decisions and actions by the city council of Manhattan Beach got us to the point that the Bruce family was run out of town. The decisions and actions by THIS city council of Manhattan Beach should recognize was it did wrong, and go about trying to right it. Words matter!

Thank you

Danny Olivas

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Elyse Gura <egura1211@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 9:22 PM
To: List - City Council; Elyse Gura; City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Plaque Language

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I urge City Council to discard the 240-word Bruce's Beach plaque language proposed by Council member Suzanne Hadley. That proposed language is uninspiring, often factually inaccurate or irrelevant and otherwise misleading. Plaque language must include the significant accomplishments of the Bruces while Manhattan Beach residents, must honestly relate the history of hateful acts of local opposition to the growth of Black residents and visitors, must acknowledge the true motivation for the seizure Bruce's Beach property by eminent domain, must admit the inequities in property owners' compensation for their property as well that the Bruce's were never compensated for the value of their thriving business

Source material from the History Advisory Board (HAB) Report of 10/25/21 will be helpful in constructing this honest narrative.

Plaque language must also indicate these events in our city's history **do not reflect** our city today. Following are excerpts from the HAB Report for your consideration in crafting this message::

1. Composed by Leadership Manhattan Beach in 2003:: "...the site of Bruce's Beach, a resort for African American Angelinos. This two block neighborhood ... housed several minority families and was condemned through eminent domain proceedings commenced in 1924. Those tragic circumstances reflected the views of a different time."
2. From the Feb 27 2006 meeting minutes of our Parks & Recreation Department : "The Commission has an interest in sending the message that Manhattan Beach stands for, amongst other things, diversity and recognizing that the greatest blemish in our history are the events of the 1920s at Bruce's Beach."
3. Quoting Resident Oliver Coker on behalf of his wife, Lillian Light, at the City Council meeting of July 6, 2006: "make a statement that 'we citizens of Manhattan Beach strongly oppose such acts of racial discrimination and will never again allow such acts to occur here'."

Using this approach, we acknowledge Bruce's Beach significance not only in Manhattan Beach history, but also in civil rights history. Through our honesty, we gain the respect and admiration of all those who visit our city and this historic location.

Elyse Gura
Manhattan Beach Resident since 1982.

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: ROY GONELLA <roygone@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 8:46 PM
To: List - City Council
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wording for Bruce's Beach Plaque

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council,

After having read the proposals for new language on the Bruce's Beach plaque, I strongly support the Supplemental Attachment by Mayor Pro Tem Napolitano.

I was involved with the creation of 7 interpretive signs at the Manhattan Beach Botanical Garden. Throughout the process I worked with a professional graphic designer, and learned that brevity, accuracy, and interesting content are essential. Unlike the other two choices, Mr. Napolitano's proposal fulfills all three perfectly.

I look forward to the completed project!

Sincerely,
Julie (and Roy) Gonella
MB residents

Sent from my iPhone

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Christine Sparks <christine_sparks@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 7:41 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Plaque Language

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

*Most of us now understand the serious and wrong actions that were taken by the city of Manhattan Beach against two dozen MB families in the 1920's. Significantly about half dozen of the affected families were Black. **I agree that racism was the primary reason for the city council of Manhattan Beach to start eminent domain proceedings against these families.** The stated reason was to form a new park. The real reason was to snuff out a burgeoning black-owned business, which brought black guests and visitors to MB.*

Christine Sparks

Sent from my iPhone

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: John Randolph <johnrando@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 7:22 PM
To: List - City Council
Cc: ityclerk@manhattanbeach.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach plaque language

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Please do not white-wash the Bruce's Beach plaque language with a watered down explanation of what happened. Using Suzanne Hadley's new language does just that. In no way does telling the truth brand Manhattan Beach as racist. In fact, acknowledging what happened with that plaque shows that Manhattan Beach has progressed. Thank you. Long time resident, John Randolph.

You may use my comment in the public record.

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Laura Dotson <laura_dotson@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 7:17 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Cityclerk@manhattanbeach.gov

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I am a 40 year plus resident of Manhattan Beach and I am very disturbed that once again a member of our city council is trying to (literally) whitewash our history. It has been made very clear based on the hard work of meticulously researching the history surrounding Bruce's Beach by citizens and professional historians on our own history advisory board that the city used Eminent Domain as a racist tool to remove Black property owners and to discourage Black businesses and visitors from Manhattan Beach.

I feel strongly that the plaque should accurately reflect that history and I hope the language proposed by our history advisory board will be adopted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Dotson
575 35th Street
Manhattan Beach

Sent from my iPad

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Kim Brant-Lucich <kbrant007@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 7:17 PM
To: City Clerk; List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please approve HISTORICALLY ACCURATE Bruce's Beach Plaque Language

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Councilmembers and City Clerk,

I urge City Council to approve Bruce's Beach plaque language that reflects the history City Council memorialized on April 6 of last year with the [Statement of Acknowledgment, Condemnation, and Empathy regarding Bruce's Beach](#):

"The City of Manhattan Beach formally Acknowledges, Empathizes, and Condemns: The City's racially motivated eminent domain action to dispossess Willa and Charles A. Bruce, Major George and Mrs. Ethel Prioleau, Elizabeth Patterson, Mary R. Sanders, Milton and Anna Johnson, as well as White property owners, of their property."

In November 2021, City Council accepted the History Advisory Board's well-researched and documented history report, created after thousands of hours of dissertation-level work, with an impressive bibliography of numerous credible source materials. I urge you to honor that history, which is posted on the City Website. I also urge Council to use the HAB's meticulously crafted language as the basis for plaque verbiage.

Do not accept the plaque language being proposed by Councilmember Hadley. There is a tremendous discrepancy between that language and Hadley's own words on March 16 when, as Mayor, she addressed Council and the City saying:

*"Most of us now understand the serious and wrong actions that were taken by the city of Manhattan Beach against two dozen MB families [sic] in the 1920's. Significantly about half dozen of the affected families were Black. **I agree that racism was the primary reason for the city council of Manhattan Beach to start eminent domain proceedings against these families. The stated reason was to form a new park. The real reason was to snuff out a burgeoning black-owned business, which brought black guests and visitors to MB.**"*

You are all intelligent and capable individuals; the language proposed by Councilmember Hadley is misleading and inaccurate. It is a deliberate erasure and denial of history, and it is an insult. In a court of law, Hadley would be asked, "were you lying then, or are you lying now?"

The story of Bruce's Beach has received national, and even international, attention. Failure to acknowledge it prevents us from moving forward. Ms. Hadley insists she "will not brand us with a Scarlet R," yet this rewriting of history will do exactly that. It will also brand today's City Council as ignorant and racially tone deaf.

I remind Councilmember Hadley of her own Biblical quote from John 8:32: "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (King James Bible)

Please honor your words and actions. Adopt plaque language to acknowledge, empathize and condemn the racially motivated actions by the City in the 1920s. Be true to your words.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Kim Brant-Lucich

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: David Henschel <davehensch@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 7:09 PM
To: List - City Council
Cc: City Clerk; Kara Henschel
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Plaque language

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

We ask that City Council deny the [Plaque Language proposed by Councilmember Hadley](#), which is in direct opposition to her own statements from March 16 of last year:

*"Most of us now understand the serious and wrong actions that were taken by the city of Manhattan Beach against two dozen MB families in the 1920's. Significantly about half dozen of the affected families were Black. **I agree that racism was the primary reason for the city council of Manhattan Beach to start eminent domain proceedings against these families.** The stated reason was to form a new park. The real reason was to snuff out a burgeoning black-owned business, which brought black guests and visitors to MB."*

We call on you to:

- The omissions in Councilmember Hadley's proposed language sanitize and distort the history surrounding Bruce's Beach.
- The [Statement of Acknowledgment, Condemnation, and Empathy regarding Bruce's Beach](#), which council approved on April 6, 2021, accepts that the eminent domain action was racially motivated, and this should be included on the plaque.
- Use the well-researched language proposed by the History Advisory Board as the starting point for creating the language on the plaque.

Respectfully,

David and Kara Henschel
MB Residents

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Jon Chaykowski <rideformbef@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 6:17 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach plaque topic is open for discussion

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council Members,

I am happy to see that the Bruce's Beach plaque topic will be discussed.

Having a plaque to discuss the eminent domain action which occurred one hundred years ago seems like a reasonable idea. It is good that Los Angeles County, which now owns the land that previously was Bruce's property, is going to erect a plaque to discuss that eminent domain action.

Per the Beach Reporter, I understand that the County's "educational" plaque will be on/near the County/Bruce's property. I also understand that the County may work with the MB's Bruce's Beach History Advisory Board in scripting the plaque.

Good, there will be a plaque on/near the site. As for MB City creating and erecting a plaque on MB park property that will address the same topic, that would be redundant and unnecessary. To be blunt, have TWO (2) Bruce's Beach plaques in same general area is foolish and a waste of MB City resources.

I understand that one argument for MB creating and erecting a plaque would be to have control over the wording. The approach would impact one plaque but would do nothing to influence the wording on the County's plaque. That seems scary. If MB City want to influence the wording seen by the public, MB should offer to help the County in scripting the County's plaque. Maybe MB can offer our research/historical information on the subject.

Reiterating, it would be redundant and unnecessary to have TWO plaques. Further, having "our own" plaque with wording different than the County's can make MB look foolish. Also, some people will "protest" that MB is trying to "slant/contest" the historical message in the County's plaque.

Worse yet, should MB erect a plaque and later wish to remove this "foolish/unnecessary/redundant" plaque, the resulting "social" uproar and problems for MB would be horrible.

SO ... I believe it is appropriate AND wise for the MB City Council to quickly move to stop all MB activity to create and erect a plaque ANYWHERE on MB's park above the County property. Leave the plaque creation and erecting to the County, on County property.

Sincerely,
Jon Chaykowski

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Kathleen Goldman <kjzlacrosse@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 5:51 PM
To: List - City Council
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Plaque

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Please do not eliminate the acceptance of our Current City Council of racism being the motivating reason behind the eminent domain proceedings against the owners of Bruce's Beach Resort in the 1920's. It is through admitting to the history of racism that we can heal our society of the error of racism in our past.

The Bruce's Beach Plaque reflecting the admission of the history of racism will be a step in that healing. Councilmember Hadley's objection to the wording agreed upon earlier is a mistaken perception that admitting to history's errors is an admission of current beliefs and actions rather than an effort to move beyond the past and into a better and more inclusive future.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Goldman
1410-21st Street

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Azure II <tovardesign@mac.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 5:12 PM
To: Richard Montgomery
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Bruce's Beach Plaque Language

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you for pointing that out. My comments on the language for the Plaque on Bruce's Beach Monument Sign (Formerly Parque Culiacan), should be completely truthful. Racism was involved, the word shouldn't be swept under the rug as if it didn't happen that way.

> On Mar 9, 2022, at 1:08 PM, Richard Montgomery <rmontgomery@manhattanbeach.gov> wrote:
>
> Anita,
>
> LA County owns the Former Bruce Beach property not the city.
>
> Please Email the LA County Supervisor Holly Mitchel and ask what her intentions are for the property and the plaque they are installing
>
> Sincerely, Richard
>
> Sent by iPhone
>
>
>
> Richard Montgomery
> Councilmember
> (424) 390-3629
> rmontgomery@manhattanbeach.gov
>
> City of Manhattan Beach, CA
>
> Office Hours: M - Th 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM | Fridays 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM | Not Applicable to Public Safety
>
> Here for you 24/7, use our click and fix it app www.manhattanbeach.gov/reachmanhattanbeach
>
>> On Mar 9, 2022, at 10:44 AM, Azure II <tovardesign@mac.com> wrote:
>>
>> EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.
>>
>> To City Council Members,
>>
>> My comment/questions are as follows... Has anyone asked the Bruce Family if they even want a plaque on their property? Leaving the Bruce Family out of this debate over language on a plaque is a big mistake. This issue will only come up again, as it has been. Why has so much time and effort been placed on a plaque on Bruce Family property? To

make everyone else feel good, people see right through that. Has the Bruce Family, or any of the families that were wronged, had any input? Truth matters.

>>

>> Thank you,

>>

>> Anita Lerman

>> Resident of Manhattan Beach

>>

>>

>

>

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Connie Harrington <cbharrington21@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 3:47 PM
To: City Clerk; List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Plaque Language

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I Zoom attended every meeting of the Bruce's Beach Committee and I know from all the research that was shared by the members of this committee that the eminent domain act of 1924 was racially motivated. The City Council must adopt plaque language stating this fact. This is our chance to impact this wrong.

Connie Harrington

--

Sent From My iPhone

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Kieran Malik <kieran_malik@brown.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 3:31 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] cityclerk@manhattanbeach.gov

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Manhattan Beach City Council,

My name is Kieran Malik and I was born and raised in Manhattan Beach. I'm writing to you because I am appalled by my City Council's failure to take responsibility and action for Manhattan Beach's racist act of seizing the land of the Bruce family. I was seriously disappointed by the Council's refusal to issue a statement of apology to the Bruce family, and that the County had to step in and go over the Council's head because my representatives refused to apologize for racism.

Now, the Council has an opportunity to take a step in the direction of justice in acknowledging and denouncing this city's racist past, and vowing that we will not have a racist future, in the language included on a new Bruce's Beach commemorative plaque. I urge you to include the sentiment professed in the City's Statement of Acknowledgement, Condemnation, and Empathy regarding Bruce's Beach approved on April 6, 2021, which stated that the eminent domain action was racially motivated.

I know that many MB residents are concerned that making such a statement would be accepting the idea that Manhattan Beach is a racist city. Manhattan Beach *was* a racist city — something all American cities share. The tragic fact of this nation is that it has oppressed Black Americans from its inception. Erasing that, refusing to reckon with that past and to work towards racial justice — *that* would mean Manhattan Beach is perpetuating racism, present tense.

I don't want that. I sincerely hope that my city council doesn't either.

Sincerely,
Kieran Malik

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Anita Lerman <thelermans@mac.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 1:58 PM
To: Richard Montgomery
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Bruce's Beach Plaque Language

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Really? Is the Manhattan Beach city council not meeting on:

Bruce's Beach Plaque Language To Be Decided Thursday, March 10 at 6:00 PM

Please confirm.

Thanks,

Anita Lerman

On Mar 9, 2022, at 1:08 PM, Richard Montgomery wrote:

Anita,

LA County owns the Former Bruce Beach property not the city.

Please Email the LA County Supervisor Holly Mitchel and ask what her intentions are for the property and the plaque they are installing

Sincerely, Richard

Sent by iPhone

Richard Montgomery
Councilmember
(424) 390-3629
rmontgomery@manhattanbeach.gov

City of Manhattan Beach, CA

Office Hours: M - Th 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM | Fridays 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM | Not Applicable to Public Safety

Here for you 24/7, use our click and fix it app www.manhattanbeach.gov/reachmanhattanbeach

On Mar 9, 2022, at 10:44 AM, Azure II wrote:

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To City Council Members,

My comment/questions are as follows... Has anyone asked the Bruce Family if they even want a plaque on their property? Leaving the Bruce Family out of this debate over language on a plaque is a big mistake. This issue will only come up again, as it has been. Why has so much time and effort been placed on a plaque on Bruce Family property? To make everyone else feel good, people see right through that. Has the Bruce Family, or any of the families that were wronged, had any input? Truth matters.

Thank you,

Anita Lerman

Resident of Manhattan Beach

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Azure II <tovardesign@mac.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 10:44 AM
To: List - City Council
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Plaque Language

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To City Council Members,

My comment/questions are as follows... Has anyone asked the Bruce Family if they even want a plaque on their property? Leaving the Bruce Family out of this debate over language on a plaque is a big mistake. This issue will only come up again, as it has been. Why has so much time and effort been placed on a plaque on Bruce Family property? To make everyone else feel good, people see right through that. Has the Bruce Family, or any of the families that were wronged, had any input? Truth matters.

Thank you,

Anita Lerman
Resident of Manhattan Beach

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Loralie Ogden <logden456@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 10:19 AM
To: List - City Council; Bruce Moe
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Plaque

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilmembers:

I am writing about the language to be used for the plaque at Bruce's Beach. I urge you to reflect what is known to be the reality of the condemnation of this site: it was for racist reasons, no other. This was proven by the excellent work your own committee did on this issue as reflected in the History Report. Your own Statement of Acknowledgment, Condemnation, and Empathy regarding Bruce's Beach acknowledged that racism was the cause of the condemnation.

Don't let reality be white-washed by not stating on the plaque that racism precipitated the condemnation. Please reject the plaque language proposed by Councilmember Hadley as it does not accurately reflect what really happened. Are we so ashamed of our history that we now can't state the truth?

Please use the History report as the basis for the plaque language, as it is in the two alternatives attached to the meeting agenda.

Sincerely,

Loralie Ogden and Dexter Taylor

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Faith Backus Lyons <faithbl@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 9:54 AM
To: List - City Council; Bruce Moe
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Plaque

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilmembers:

I am writing about the language to be used for the plaque at Bruce's Beach. I urge you to reflect what is known to be the reality of the condemnation of this site: it was for racist reasons, no other. This was proven by the excellent work your own committee did on this issue as reflected in the History Report. Your own Statement of Acknowledgment, Condemnation, and Empathy regarding Bruce's Beach acknowledged that racism was the cause of the condemnation.

Don't let reality be white-washed by not stating on the plaque that racism precipitated the condemnation. Please reject the plaque language proposed by Councilmember Hadley as it does not accurately reflect what really happened. Are we so ashamed of our history that we now can't state the truth?

Please use the History report as the basis for the plaque language, as it is in the two alternatives attached to the meeting agenda.

Sincerely,

Faith and Tom Lyons
574 33rd Street

--

Faith Backus Lyons
(310) 266-3205

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Janet Anderson <janet.bell.anderson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 9:47 AM
To: List - City Council; City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach plaque language

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello, MB City Council.

It is unquestionably **imperative** that the language on the plaque commemorating Bruce's Beach identify the racial motivation driving the actions of Manhattan Beach when eminent domain was invoked to displace the Bruce family.

What is truly to be gained from denying that our community has a racist past? How do we learn to be better if we aren't accepting the complete story of our history? I urge you to honor your own statement of acknowledgement, condemnation and empathy because it's **historically accurate** and our community has a duty to make sure all those who visit Bruce's Beach can assess the full impact of the city's actions from 100 years ago. Admitting that there was a racial motivation at that time does not paint our city as racist TODAY. However, leaving that important piece of our history out of the plaque's language does paint us as IGNORANT today.

Thank you,
Janet Anderson
Manhattan Beach resident since 1991

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Charlotte Marshall <charmpr@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 8:49 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Plaque

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Council,

I want to encourage you to state the facts about the unfortunate and racist tactics that were used in 1924 to condemn the property now known as Bruce's Beach. After reviewing the wording from the original task force on Bruce's Beach, I commend them for their extensive and professional research and it appears that they have uncovered many details about the various property owners and their plight. However, it's indeed difficult to present this history in one readable plaque or document.

Having worked on signage like this (specifically for the MB Botanical Garden interpretive signs and other communication programs) I know how difficult it is to present accurate and understandable information on a sign. There are always too many words...like in my note to you.

I thought about rewriting it for you in a more "communicative" format, but after reviewing Steve's proposed version, I think he's on the right track. Fewer words, more impact. Please consider adopting his version and keep in mind the actual goal of this plaque.

Thank you all for your dedicated service to our community.

Charlotte Marshall

Sent from my iPad

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Harriet Chase <hzchase@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 12:23 AM
To: List - City Council
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Plaque

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the City Council:

Please honor your statement of Acknowledgment, Condemnation , and Empathy regarding Bruce's Beach (the racially motivated eminent domain action) is included in the wording on the plaque.

In other words the Bruce's Beach plaque needs to include the true history of how the families were removed from Bruce's Beach.

Sincerely,
Harriet Chase
MB resident

Ask City Council to honor their own **Statement of Acknowledgment, Condemnation, and Empathy regarding Bruce's Beach**, in which they declare that *"the City of Manhattan Beach formally Acknowledges, Empathizes, and Condemns: The City's racially motivated eminent domain action to dispossess Willa and Charles A. Bruce, Major George and Mrs. Ethel Prioleau, Elizabeth Patterson, Mary R. Sanders, Milton and Anna Johnson, as well as White property owners, of their property."*

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Shereen Rayan Lavi <smlhoops1@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 5:55 PM
To: List - City Council; City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruces Beach

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council, let's not change history please, it was bad enough the city didn't apologize and the State had to in our stead, making the city look racist by the media all over the world. So I am asking you to vote that the [Statement of Acknowledgment, Condemnation, and Empathy regarding Bruce's Beach](#), which you approved on April 6, 2021, that accepts that the eminent domain action was racially motivated, should be included on the plaque.

Thank you,
Shereen Lavi

31 year resident of Manhattan Beach who cares how our city is perceived and fights for racial justice

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Alison Chavez <coffeychavez@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 5:50 PM
To: List - City Council; City Manager
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reflect an accurate history on the Bruce's Beach plaque

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Truth matters. At least it used to. Sitting on the Manhattan Beach city council is a responsibility to our town; one in which non-partisan decisions are expected and required. There should be no debate. Just tell the truth. The fact that the eminent domain proceedings were racially motivated is accepted by most residents and those elsewhere paying attention.

By trying to white-wash history, we appear racist, elitist and out of touch with current social norms.

Suzanne Hadley's current proposed plaque language is a continuation of a pattern to suppress the history of the victimized and in the minority. Is she working for Manhattan Beach or merely building her GQP brand?

I ask because Suzanne Hadley previously stated, "*Most of us now understand the serious and wrong actions that were taken by the city of Manhattan Beach against two dozen MB families in the 1920's. Significantly about half dozen of the affected families were Black. I agree that racism was the primary reason for the city council of Manhattan Beach to start eminent domain proceedings against these families.*"

The current city Council appears more interested in appeasing the local Trump supporters than doing the right thing. Please do the right thing for Manhattan Beach!

Life long resident,
Alison Chavez

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Anthony A. Lee <member1700@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 4:27 PM
To: List - City Council; City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Historical Plaque

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Mayor Stern and Honorable Council Members:

The history of Bruce's Beach that was approved by the City Council and is now on the municipal website is the most detailed and accurate narrative of the sad events of one-hundred years ago that destroyed a thriving black-owned business and snuffed out an emerging African American neighborhood. Any plaque that the City installs to replace the one that now stands at Bruce's Beach should be informed by that history. It should also reflect the City's condemnation of these actions by a previous City Council that was adopted a year ago.

The language for the plaque that Suzanne Hadley has proposed does neither of these things. Her narrative is distorted, inaccurate, misleading, and would be deeply offensive to the African American community if it were adopted. The City Council should certainly reconsider the recommendations of its now dissolved History Advisory Board. The County of Los Angeles is also considering a historical exhibit with appropriate language.

The history of Bruce's Beach is extremely well known, both nationally and internationally. In the past months I have been asked to participate in two academic Zoom webinars with a national audience. Both of them wanted to focus in on the history of Bruce's Beach. This is mostly because it continues to be a source of racial conflict today. I am not sure the City Council realizes how terribly the name of Manhattan Beach is being dragged through the mud, at least in the academic community. Adopting a false narrative that attempts to whitewash or deny the true history of

Bruce's Beach will certainly make this worse and become yet another cause of racial grievance. We should all want to prevent that.

Warm regards,
Anthony A. Lee, Ph.D.

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Taylor Gamble <taylormgamble@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 2:58 PM
To: List - City Council
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Proposed Plaque Language

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Stern and Councilmembers,

I am deeply dismayed by the proposed Bruce's Beach plaque language. It is filled with inaccuracies, contradictions, and devoid of any of the hard truths that each of you at some point in the past two years have yourselves acknowledged. Astonishingly, the proposed language is actually inferior to the current plaque language, and we must do better.

It is no secret that when it comes to the history of Bruce's Beach, there has been a very organized effort to re-write history by a certain group of locals who have been spewing rhetoric that contains misrepresentations of the truth, and all out lies. I am disappointed to see that this group has very clearly and directly impacted the proposed language for the plaque proposed by Councilmember Hadley.

I am not going to go line by line and refute the incorrect or misleading statements in the proposed plaque language, as I have seen that many of my Manhattan Beach neighbors have already done so. What I will say is that the purpose of the plaque is to acknowledge the hard truths of the racially motivated actions of the past, honor the families, and assert our resolve as a welcoming and inclusive community, and the proposed plaque language falls deeply short of that.

I believe in each and every one of you on Council to adopt plaque language that states the eminent domain act of 1924 was racially motivated. I believe in you because, as a reminder, the [Statement of Acknowledgment, Condemnation, and Empathy regarding Bruce's Beach](#), which you approved on April 6, 2021, accepts that the eminent domain action was racially motivated, and therefore should obviously be included on the plaque.

Let's take this opportunity to provide healing to our community instead of stoking further division by etching inaccuracies into stone.

Thanks for your time,

Taylor Gamble
Manhattan Beach Resident

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Michael Grady <mgradyla@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 1:30 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's beach

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Adopt the historically accurate language already approved for plaque at Bruce's Beach. Do Not listen to this backwards thinking. Admit wrong. Move on.

M Grady
19 yr resident

Sent from my iPhone

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Michael Grady <mgradyla@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 1:28 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's beach

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

It is incredibly simple. Follow the language that historians and facts agree upon. Language was approved. Move on M
Grady
19 year resident

Sent from my iPhone

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Laney Anderson <anderson.laney@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 1:03 PM
To: List - City Council
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Plaque for Bruce's Beach

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Please DENY Suzanne Hadley's proposed language for the plaque at Bruce's Beach, which does not accurately reflect what happened. We absolutely need to acknowledge the racism that motivated the eminent domain proceedings that occurred. Not explicitly doing that will be another embarrassment on our city and a stain on its present citizens nearly as great as the stain on its citizens of a century ago. We know better now. Please rely on the well-researched language provided by the History Advisory Board as at least a starting point for the plaque.

Laney Anderson
609 25th St
Manhattan Beach

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: donna g. dodge <ddgrl13@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 11:53 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reject Hadley

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I am a Manhattan Beach resident and I fully reject Hadley's new proposal to change the language on Bruce's Beach plaque.

Shame on you!

I support the committees wording and proper and accurate description of those historic racially motivated events.

Sent from my iPhone

Donna and Brad Dodge

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Alexandria Latragna
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 9:28 AM
To: Martha Alvarez, MMC; Liza Tamura, MMC
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach

From: Kristin Long
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 9:23 AM
To: Hildy Stern ; Steve Napolitano ; Richard Montgomery ; Joe Franklin ; Suzanne Hadley ; Alexandria Latragna ; Bruce Moe
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Esteemed Councilmembers:

Many of you have assured me that you take the information from Roy Casey, Bruce's Beach Get the Facts, and Mike Michalski with a grain of salt, if you lend any credence to it at all. But when I read Councilmember Hadley's proposed language for the Bruce's Beach plaque, I'm afraid that at least some of you are listening to them more than you'll admit. That's worrisome. They are unreliable, spreading falsehoods rooted in subjective opinion.

When it comes to the history of Bruce's Beach, those emails are laden with half-truths, misinterpretations of the truth and straight-up lies. Despite my constant efforts to get them to correct their misinformation, they continue to spew their rhetoric to their readership with no consequence. Please be smarter than that.

The history that you adopted in the Bruce's Beach History Report is the most factual and accurate history of the events that transpired here with Bruce's Beach and the city. It provides the most detailed history, with citations and multiple references for every claim. Despite what Roy Casey and Bruce's Beach Get the Facts claim, it IS objective; it is a factual report compiled from multiple sources with complete bibliography.

These fear-mongering emails have no citations and when asked for one, I am ignored.

I also want to remind you of this, as spoken by Councilmember Hadley nearly one year ago:

"Most of us now understand the serious and wrong actions that were taken by the city of Manhattan Beach against two dozen MB families [sic] in the 1920's. Significantly about half dozen of the affected families were Black. I agree that racism was the primary reason for the city council of Manhattan Beach to start eminent domain proceedings against these families. The stated reason was to form a new park. The real reason was to snuff out a burgeoning black-owned business, which brought black guests and visitors to MB. My feeling is that in order to make the park justification seem plausible, 25 some families' land was seized when the rectangle park now known as Bruce's Beach.

I believe throwing in a couple dozen white families [sic] whose land was also seized helped some in the city feel better about what they were doing. I am sorry personally and as the current Manhattan Beach mayor for what transpired in my town between 1912 and 1929. It hurts my heart. I think it was wrong. I would not act that way and I pray my own adult children never would as well.

We are a nation of laws and, at the end of the day, the rule of law is all we have. It separates us from dictatorships. But we also know laws can be wrong. Plessy vs. Ferguson was the law back then that made segregation legal. Separate but equal was legal until mid-century. Other awful laws included the fugitive slave act, the Dred Scott Supreme Court Decisions, and others. Just because something is legal doesn't make it right.

In this case our City Council back then deliberated over months, documents were filed, the L.A. Superior Court was used. Law enforcement deployed and money changed hands for what was a thinly veiled, social-engineering effort.

It may have been legal but it doesn't pass the smell test today."

You can understand my dismay, then, when I read Councilmember Hadley's proposed language. The errors were significant:

- First, it was not called Bruce's Lodge. All evidence indicates that was a mistake on Brigham's part because there is no mention of it being "Bruce's Lodge" in any historical documents before 1956 (when Brigham's thesis was published).

- Blacks owned land elsewhere in California. We've been over this many, many times. This is something that's often repeated by Roy Casey and the "Bruce's Beach Get The Facts" contingency and it's **factually inaccurate**. Despite receiving evidence to the contrary, these are facts that are conveniently omitted to fit their narrative.

- to say "Thirty families" is inaccurate. While the Bruce family, the Prioleau family, the Sanders family, the Johnson family and Elizabeth Patterson (for her and her family) owned property, we don't know if the 25 white entities were families because by every indication they were individuals and/or business associates.

- the City did not use eminent domain to seize the property in 1924. They initiated the complaint of condemnation proceedings in 1924, and the proceedings lasted until 1929.

- To say "several sources alleged" that this was racially motivated is weak and irresponsible. We all know what happened; we also know that it was not the actions of today's Manhattan Beach citizens. It was nearly a hundred years ago, and we can admit that it was wrong. Common sense tells you that. To deny it is counterproductive and fuels the divide that is hurting our community.

- Councilmember Hadley punctuated her speech by saying:

"Legally evicted or not, I want to state their names for the record. One good thing that came out of the shooting of breonna taylor is the chant saying "say her name." We need to remember them by their names. Willie Bruce. Charles Bruce. Major George and Mrs. Ethel Prioleau, Ms. Elizabeth Patterson, Ms. Mary R. Sanders, and Milton Johnson and Anna Johnson."

The proposed language does not mention anyone's name but the Bruces'. Please don't ignore them. Please identify and remember their role in this.

Sincerely,

Kristin Long Drew

15-year resident

Manhattan Beach Historical Society Board Member

Former Member of the History Advisory Board for Bruce's Beach



ALEXANDRIA LATRAGNA

POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ANALYST

(310) 802-5063

alatragna@manhattanbeach.gov

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

Office Hours: M-Th 8:00 AM-5:00 PM | Fridays 8:00 AM-4:00 PM | Not Applicable to Public Safety

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Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: lynn thompson <lynnmikami@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 8:18 AM
To: List - City Council; City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Plaque for Bruce's Beach

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi, I would like to Request that the plaque for Bruce's Beach be an accurate accounting of history! Thanks,
Lynn Thompson Ps. I live in Redondo Beach but I love Bruce's Beach and so happy that finally the systemic racism there has been addressed. Thank you

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Garraway, Isla P. <IGarraway@mednet.ucla.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 8:25 PM
To: Hildy Stern; List - City Council; Suzanne Hadley; Steve Napolitano; Joe Franklin; Richard Montgomery
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Proposed Plaque
Attachments: Proposed Language – Councilmember Hadley.pdf

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilmembers,

When I read the plaque language proposed by Suzanne Hadley, I was struck by the change in substance and tone from her previous statement regarding the racially motivated condemnation proceedings that targeted Bruce's Beach and were unanimously approved by the MB Board of Trustees (aka city council) nearly a century ago. Among the many inaccuracies in the plaque language, there is an implication that “thirty families (25 White and 5 Black)” were equivalently affected by the condemnation proceedings. Historical documents show that only Black-owned properties were developed with livable dwellings and photographic proof of family life. There is no evidence that White-owned properties in the condemned area were owned by families or developed. What is most puzzling is that her recent language suggests that the racial motivation behind the condemnation proceedings was merely "alleged." Further, her emphasis on the compensation provided to the landowners wrongfully implies that city's action may have been *fair*. Surely, councilmember Hadley would want to take this opportunity to be clear that using eminent domain to forcibly disrupt a part of the MB community on the basis of race would be unacceptable, no matter what the compensation. Councilmember Hadley, along with her fellow councilmembers, adopted the History Advisory Board Report, which includes historical documents and other evidence of the racist motivation behind the condemnation proceedings (all available to view on the City website). The public acknowledgement: [Statement of Acknowledgment, Condemnation, and Empathy regarding Bruce's Beach](#) was also adopted by all city councilmembers. The purpose of the plaque is to acknowledge the hard truths of the racially motivated actions of the past, honor the families, and assert our resolve as a welcoming and inclusive community. Unfortunately, the proposed plaque language by councilmember Hadley does not achieve this.

I have annotated Councilmember Hadley's statement from the March 16, 2021 city council below, to emphasize how much I agreed with her synthesis of the facts and data at that time. I included minor edits to her full statement to demonstrate just how aligned we were on the language she composed then:

Most MB residents now understand the serious and wrong actions that were taken by the city of MB against ~~two dozen MB families~~ [5 black families and 25 white entities] in the 1920s.....The real reason for the condemnation was to snuff out a burgeoning Black-owned business which brought Black guests and visitors to MB. In order to make the park justification seem plausible, ~~25 some families~~ [5 black families and 25 white entities] land was seized in the rectangle park now known as Bruce's Beach. I believe throwing in a couple dozen white ~~families~~ [entities] whose land was also seized help some in the city feel better about what they were doing.

I am sorry personally, ~~and as the current Manhattan Beach mayor,~~ [as a 25+ year Manhattan Beach resident], for what transpired in my town between 1912 and 1929. It hurts my heart. I think it was wrong. I would not act that way, and I pray my own adult children never would as well. We are a nation of laws and at the end of the day the rule of law is all we have. It separates us from dictatorships. But we also know that laws can be wrong. Plessy versus Ferguson was the law back then that made segregation legal. Separate but equal was legal until mid-century. Other awful laws in our nation's history include the Fugitive Slave Act, the Dred Scott supreme court decision, and others. Just because something is legal doesn't make it right. In this case, our city council back then deliberated over months, documents were filed, the LA superior court was used, law enforcement deployed, and money changed hands, for what was essentially a thinly veiled social engineering effort. It may have been legal, but it doesn't pass the smell test today. Legally evicted or not, I want to state the names of these displaced families for the record. One good thing that came out of the shooting of Breonna Taylor is a wonderful practice of chant saying, "say her name" We need to remember these folks by their name, and they deserve to be remembered by name for their ties to our collective MB history: Willie Bruce, Charles Bruce, Major George Prioleau Ethel Prioleau, Elizabeth Patterson, Mary R Sanders, Milton Johnson, and Anna Johnson. In addition, the land of a couple dozen other white families were also seized for the park, although I believe none of the white families lived on the property.

Had the eminent domain proceedings not been undertaken, it's possible that the descendants of the Bruces, the Prioleau, the Pattersons, the Sanders, and the Johnsons would still live in MB today. They might still own property that would be worth considerably more than its value in 1929, and they might have ended up having roads and schools named after them like Peck Avenue or Pennekamp School. The imagination soars of what might have been, might have done. I'm sorry none that took place, and I am sorry this town reached a fork in the road and took, in my opinion, the wrong fork. Our early town fathers took a different path and it's led us to this place today. My heart is heavy about it. I've spent hundreds of hours reading reports, listening to task force meetings, speaking with our unofficial town historian, Jan Dennis [and Kristin Long], and reading and answering emails. This is a stressful and humbling time to be ~~mayor~~ [a resident of Manhattan Beach]. So where do we go from here? Where does MB go? Where does this council go? Where do our residents go from here?

Well, I vow to go forward more in sorrow than in anger. As a Christian, I know God loves the truth. The sacred text I lean on for wisdom and guidance is the Bible. Bible says you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free. I am not afraid of the truth. We need to acknowledge and own what has happened in order to accept it and move forward vowing to do better. The value in this Bruce's Beach reckoning is that now our town knows the truth as well. That's the blessing. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and our town 100 years ago certainly fell short of the glory of God.

What do I want now? I want the history of Bruce's Beach to be put on our city website. I want the facts of what happened to be taught in our MB public schools. I want the signage updated at the park to list the names of all the evicted families. I want our cultural arts commission to work hard to bring to life an art piece that honors the memory and experience of these early MB settlers. I want to keep Bruce's Beach as a park, opening and welcoming to all. I want to work with the County of Los Angeles to help decide what happens with the County lifeguard station. I want to speak freely and honestly about this stain in our history, and I want to move forward together, more in sorrow than in anger pledging to say, "never again."

Councilmember Hadley demonstrated knowledge, empathy and understanding of a painful time in American history in her original statement. We are truly **united** on this issue. Let the plaque reflect this unity and historical understanding. Please remove the inaccurate and misleading claims supported only by ill-informed and mostly anonymous groups. They have been discredited by the open access historical documents available on the city website

<https://www.manhattanbeach.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/48336/637714452765370000>.

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH October 25, 2021

History Advisory Board Report - 10/25/2021 2 The History Advisory Board is a subset of the Bruce's Beach Task Force and the Bruce's Beach Task Force History Subcommittee, which was disbanded by the Manhattan Beach

www.manhattanbeach.gov

<https://www.manhattanbeach.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/46629/637564106917830000>

A STATEMENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH

a statement of the city council of the city of manhattan beach acknowledging, empathizing, and condemning the city's role in the racially motivated condemnation of properties in the area known

www.manhattanbeach.gov

Respectfully,

Isla Garraway
25+ year MB resident

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Proposed Language from Councilmember Suzanne Hadley:

This County Lifeguard station sits on land previously owned by Willa and Charles Bruce who arrived in Manhattan Beach in 1912.

Despite opposition to Blacks' owning land elsewhere in California, Willa and her husband purchased two lots in 1912 and 1920 for a total of \$1,235 and built a successful beach resort for the Black community.

Other Black families moved to the area around Bruce's Lodge and bought permanent homes or summer cottages.

Thirty families (25 White and 5 Black) owned property near Bruce's Lodge.

In 1924 the Manhattan Beach Board of Trustees used eminent domain to seize the properties of Bruce's Lodge and neighboring landowners to create a city park.

At that time, several sources alleged the city's action was racially motivated.

All landowners were compensated for the seizure.

As the only fulltime residents in the area, and the only owners of a business, the Bruces received \$14,500, the largest portion of the legal settlement.

Four of the five Black families bought property elsewhere in Manhattan Beach.

However, Willa and Charles Bruce moved to Los Angeles in 1927 where they purchased three properties.

The area formerly known as Bruce's Lodge, and the surrounding parcels, was developed into a city park after the Great Depression and World War II.

Although no portion of the city park was ever owned by the Bruces, the city park was renamed Bruce's Beach Park in 2007 as a remembrance and tribute to the family.

240 words

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Joanne Hadley <joanne@hadleybiz.com>
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 5:39 PM
To: List - City Council; City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruces's Beach - Plaque needs fair & accurate accounting of history. Honor your own statement...

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council Members,

I ask that Manhattan Beach City Council honor their own **Statement of Acknowledgment, Condemnation, and Empathy regarding Bruce's Beach**, in which they declare that *"the City of Manhattan Beach formally Acknowledges, Empathizes, and Condemns: The City's racially motivated eminent domain action to dispossess Willa and Charles A. Bruce, Major George and Mrs. Ethel Prioleau, Elizabeth Patterson, Mary R. Sanders, Milton and Anna Johnson, as well as White property owners, of their property."*

Unfortunately, several local anonymous hate groups and some residents have repeatedly disseminated misleading emails or made public comments denying any racially motivated acts took place in Manhattan Beach in the 1920s. They discredit historical accounts accepted to date, and are asking residents to insist that City Council rewrite the history, creating one that will remove any mention of past racist acts. This is wrong and dangerous.

We need to make sure that plaque language that represents a fair and accurate accounting of history.

Thank you,
Joanne Hadley
Manhattan Beach

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Azure II <tovardesign@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 11:12 AM
To: List - City Council
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Plaque Language

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To City Council members,

My suggestion is to have a Bruce family member take part in what goes on the plaque. It's time to include the Bruce family, and how the truth is told from their perspective. That is all the "acknowledgment, condemnation and empathy" the city council needs to declare.

Thank you,

Anita Lerman
Parent and 22 year resident of Manhattan Beach

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Jason Cole <lakrzfan90266@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 7:04 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Plaque

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I am a resident of Manhattan Beach. I urge the city Council to use the language for the Bruce's Beach plaque that was developed by the resident committee that you appointed. The committee was careful to prepare language that accurately reflects the history of the park and it sends a strong message about social justice. The alternative language prepared by councilmember Hadley should be rejected.

Thank you for listening.

Jason Cole
30 year resident

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Karla Devine <kjdevine99@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 4, 2022 1:07 PM
To: List - City Council; City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of Manhattan Beach City Council and City Clerk,

Please, be honest and emphatic about Manhattan Beach's history on the plaque for Bruce's Beach. Please, honor your own [Statement of Acknowledgment, Condemnation, and Empathy regarding Bruce's Beach](#), in which you declare that *"the City of Manhattan Beach formally Acknowledges, Empathizes, and Condemns: The City's **racially motivated eminent domain action** to dispossess Willa and Charles A. Bruce, Major George and Mrs. Ethel Prioleau, Elizabeth Patterson, Mary R. Sanders, Milton and Anna Johnson, as well as White property owners, of their property."*

Please, edify all of us by acknowledging our mistakes and giving us hope for future inclusion.

Thank you!

Karla Devine, Resident

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Cynthia Milstein <cynmilstein@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 4, 2022 12:05 PM
To: List - City Council
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Plaque Language

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

City Council Members,
Manhattan Beach did not do right by the Bruce family a century ago. Honor them now by being honest about the past of our city. You have officially acknowledged it and condemned it. Now is your chance to put those words into a compassionate empathy action by being honest and telling the truth on the plaque.
Thank you,
Cynthia Milstein
MB parent and resident 18 years

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Jon Chaykowski <rideformbef@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 11, 2021 8:37 AM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Plaques ("s" means plural.)

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

Dear Council Members,

I read in the Beach Reporter that the County is planning to have an "educational" plaque on/near the County/Bruce's property to discuss the Eminent Domain action/motivation, etc. The County will work with the MB's Bruce's Beach History Advisory Board in scripting the plaque.

This news means that the plaque that MB City is planning to create and erect on MB park property will be redundant and unnecessary. It is foolish and a waste of MB City resources to have TWO (2) plaques in same general area, serving the same purpose. If MB City wishes to "do" something, maybe we can offer to help the County in scripting the plaque, maybe by offering our research/historical information on the subject.

Reiterating, it would be redundant and unnecessary to have TWO plaques. Furthermore, having a redundant plaque can make MB look foolish or awkward in trying to restate or repeat the message.

SO ... I believe it is appropriate AND request that the MB City Council quickly moves to stop all MB activity to create and erect a plaque on MB's park above the County property.

Sincerely,
Jon Chaykowski