

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Laura Kiely <laurakiely@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 3:32 PM
To: List - City Council
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach Apology

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

Dear City Council,

Thank you, Mayor Napolitano, for your inspiring speech at the Bruce's Beach plaque unveiling ceremony. You spoke the truth!

We are long time residents of Manhattan Beach, since 1994. We love this City, but we were deeply ashamed when our City Council refused to apologize for the racially motivated eminent domain actions against the Bruce and other families.

Please correct this error of judgment and shameful decision not to apologize.

I urge City Council to issue a formal apology as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Laura and Michael Kiely

Sent from my iPhone

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Diana Skaar <dianaskaar@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 1:25 PM
To: List - City Council
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Thank you Mayor Steve Napolitano for your service

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

Dear Mayor Steve Napolitano,

I want to thank you for your continued leadership and service to our community. I appreciate how you have thoughtfully navigated difficult topics, from Highrose to Bruce's Beach, always focused on what's best for Manhattan Beach and unafraid to call-in divisive tactics that work against that.

I particularly want to thank you for the personal apology you shared at the Bruce's Beach Plaque Dedication. You authentically role modeled **accountability**, **humility** and **empathy** .. important qualities for an elected leader who influences the tone and culture of our City. With your apology, you demonstrated to other residents that while neither you or I are responsible for actions of the City from nearly 100 years ago, we should all take responsibility for how our present-day Manhattan Beach is welcoming and inclusive.

I had a thoughtful conversation with Councilmember Joe Franklin following the Plaque Dedication to expand on what that means to him. It was mentioned that the only color that Manhattan Beach sees is green (i.e., money). While rising property values certainly limit who can afford to be in Manhattan Beach, I want to highlight *the difference between affording to live in Manhattan Beach vs. feeling welcomed and included*. The analogy I shared with Joe was being able to buy a ticket to the dance vs. feeling invited (or better yet, being personally invited as your dancing partner!) The latter makes a world of difference in how comfortable one feels in fully participating in the dancehall.

Yes, anyone of any color can live in Manhattan Beach (if you can afford it), but does everyone feel truly welcomed to fully participate?

Watching our City stumble through the handling of Bruce's Beach over the past 3 years, one can argue that the words and actions of some did not make every resident feel welcomed. (Personally, I made my very first public comment at City Council because I was shocked to hear the reasons why some residents felt an apology was unnecessary).

However, with the new Plaque language and your personal apology, I feel we are moving a step in the right direction, and I hope the rest of our City Council will follow in considering a formal apology. Thank you for tee'ing that up.

Finally, congratulations to Mayor Pro-Tem Richard Montgomery! I look forward to the good things you will do for Manhattan Beach as Mayor for the next 9 months!

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Diana Skaar
MB Resident and Parent