

From: [Pete Caldwell](#)
To: [Adam Nguyen](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the MXCAB meeting
Date: Wednesday, August 16, 2023 4:07:37 PM

I'm Pete Caldwell, Executive Director of We Care Services for Children and I appreciate the opportunity to provide public comment regarding Measure X funding choices.

We Care has been providing Early Childhood Developmental and Mental Health services in Contra Costa County for over 60 years and has long been an advocate for greater community understanding of the significant value of the types of early intervention our most vulnerable neighbors need.

The promise of Measure X funding has been in its community-sourced understanding of the deep need for early childhood funding as a way of addressing the most fundamental deficits in this county's support net. To date, less than 4% of Measure X funds have targeted what research shows is the most impactful time to intervene in a child's development.

In Contra Costa, a likely 10,00 children have a diagnosable Mental Health concern and the gap between the needs and the resources available to effectively address them has only widened. The recent implementation of CalAIM has further impacted families' access to critical services as providers like We Care are no longer reimbursed for travel to home visits - crucial to effective intervention.

On behalf of the children and families left behind, and the opportunity missed for a healthier community, I ask that the Board make a commitment to the future of this county by addressing the need that exists today for greater funding for Early Childhood Services

Thank you.

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Pete Caldwell
Executive Director
We Care Services for Children


Greetings Board of Supervisors,

I am writing this letter to express the deep pain I feel as an African American resident in this county. I am appreciative of the funding for a feasibility study, however, I do not feel it's enough and in true transparency, there is no need to study a widely known fact that is backed up by data that African Americans are the most harmed and neglected in county-led systems.

I've been a resident of East Contra Costa County for over 16 years and currently reside in the great city of Antioch where I serve the community as a Realtor, Coach, Mentor, Teacher, and Pastor. I've been married 14 years to my high school sweetheart Nikki and we have three handsome young men. Our oldest son Jordan graduated High School and college (Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, AZ;) Jalen is a Freshman in high school, and Jonah is in the 4th grade all attend the school where I've taught for 11 years. During the pandemic, we used my church as a Hub to serve the community in District 1 of Antioch. We offered a place to get COVID shots, food bags, clothes, and many more items families needed during this time. I know what the benefit of a Wellness Hub could be for my community. My lived experience and focus is to uplift African American men who have faced many obstacles dealing with, depression, anxiety, and suffering from the passing of loved ones. My mom passed away 23 years ago from a heroin overdose which was a plague in the city of Oakland. I lost my brother 4 years ago from a sickness which ended up going sepsis and he passed from septic shock. I lost my uncle a year ago, from cancer which could have been treated had he gone to the doctor sooner. We need a place where we can go and get resources and treatment Holistically. This facility should be operated by African Americans, someone that look like us. I need a place to go and sit with someone who has lived experiences that can relate and look like me. There have been trust issues with doctors since the Tuskegee syphilis study. Please consider finding a place in Antioch as the main Hub and then planting other satellite hubs throughout our county.

Thank you for your time,

Pastor Alfonzo Edwards

To the Board of Supervisors,

I am writing this letter to express the deep pain I feel as an African American resident living in East Oakland in this county. I am appreciative of the funding for a feasibility study, however, I do not feel it's enough and in true transparency, there is no need to study a widely known fact that is backed up by data that African Americans are the most harmed and neglected in county-led systems.

African Americans are the victims of hate crimes more than any other group. Yet, no hate crime bill has been created to protect them. The U.S is quick to protect other races, but constantly drags its feet on protecting black Americans. The continuous funding is vital for this reason.

Sincerely,

Alexis Loman

To the Board of Supervisors,

I am contacting you regarding the numbing resentment I feel as an African American artist & businessman in this county. I am receptive to the funding for a feasibility study, however, I do not feel it's adequate or true in transparency, there is no need to study a widely known fact that is backed up by data that African Americans are the most harmed and neglected in county-led systems.

My personal experience in Contra Costa County with health practitioners, law enforcement, civil servants and other systems designed to be representative of the community indicate a gross misunderstanding between people of color and the agencies of this region. More needs to be done.

Sincerely,

Armand Theus-Box

To the Board of Supervisors,

To the Board of Supervisors. I am writing this letter to express the deep pain I feel as an African American resident in this county. I am appreciative of the funding for a feasible study, however, I do not feel it's enough and in true transparency, there is no need to study a widely known fact that is backed up by data that African Americans are the most harmed and neglected in county-led systems.

It is incredibly appalling that since the founding of this country, there have been rules and laws in place to DE liberality bring down, harm and go against the people of color in this country namely the African Americans. The help toward the lasting conflict is appreciated but to the major and huge issue of the major atrocities done by the people of this country to the African Americans is horrifying and should be address. Any excuse of what cannot be done to fix the ongoing and everlasting results of the harm being done now, past, present and future should be dismissed as we tackle world problems like Gender equality, the Free world, as well as human rights. There should be nothing stopping the American people from addressing and helping the African American people from being able to live a happy, safe and race free life all American people have or should have in this country. All Lives Matter, Black Lives Matter.

Thank You,

Bobby Dolton

August 31, 2023

To the Board of Supervisors,

I am writing this letter to express the deep pain I feel as an African American employee in this county. I am appreciative of the funding for a feasibility study, however, I do not feel it's enough and in true transparency, there is no need to study a widely known fact that is backed up by data that African Americans are the most harmed and neglected in county-led systems.

African American people have had to deal with racial bias, micro and macro aggressions, systematic racism, structural racism, and prison to pipeline for our people for over 100 years, and we are still dealing with this today. This year we are acknowledging the 50th year of Dr. Martin Luther King's speech "I Have A Dream" We are fed up with people looking at African American people as if we are invisible. The text messages from your Police Department have proven this fact. We need a place to HEAL from generational and present TRAUMA that affects the African American communities every day of our lives. Having an African American Holistic Wellness Hub would be an Oasis, meaning a place for nurturing the deepest wellspring of our human being. This would be a safe place to heal, be inspired, and receive care from African American Health Care Professionals, Faith Base Spiritual Healers, Community Healers, Grandparents, and Non-Clinical support services that are best practices for African American families.

I am asking for the Board of Supervisors to please remember WHY you ran for the office of Supervisors. I am hoping that you all made this choice to be of SERVICE to the communities. You all are entrusted to help with building up Healthy Communities so that all residents can THRIVE. We from the 40 Voices Campaign need your VOICES to be AMPLIFY in support and to find funding to build an African American Holistic Wellness Hub to be Central in Antioch CA.

In service,

Ms. Barbara Howard



August 31, 2023

TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

I am writing as an African American resident of Bay Point, CA, and mental health professional in Contra Costa County for over 40 years, to support NAMI of Contra Costa in establishing an African American Wellness Hub in Contra Costa County. The headquarters of the Wellness Hub should be in Antioch, which receives very few county services. I have appeared before the Board of Supervisors on several occasions to voice the effects of historical and current systemic racism within the health care system and the need for such a Wellness Hub. With the high rates of health disparities in the Black community, occurrence of mass shootings nationally, and indiscriminate shooting of unarmed Black men locally, there is an urgent need for increased mental health services for individuals, families, people incarcerated, and our youth. All of us are traumatized by these events and the uncertainty of harm we face every day. At the last meeting of the Board of Supervisors we were told there may be \$80,000 allotted to do conduct a feasibility study of the need for the African American Wellness Hub.

After that meeting I had an emotional meltdown from hearing myself and other colleagues pour our hearts out citing lived experiences of grief and trauma and asking for help. It was mind boggling to me that after all the data nationally and locally which shows the Black community is the most harmed by the systemic neglect and abuse of the health care industry in America, the only remedy offered was a "feasibility study"! I came away from that meeting feeling like a beggar pleading for help and that the Supervisors did not care!

I personally know there are enough Black health care professionals and allied health staff (active and retired) available to staff and operate an African American Wellness Hub with centers in West and East County. The only primary needs to make the Wellness Hub a reality are a physical space in East and West county and funding to cover the cost of staffing. I sincerely hope a timely decision is made to establish the Wellness Hub, until then I will continue my efforts to help those I can and keep the Black community informed that our pleas for help are being "studied".

Blessings,

Carrie Frazier

Dr. Carrie Frazier, Ed., MSW, LCSW, CSC

Executive Director/Founder

Village Keepers, Inc.

Antioch, CA

Elder Desiree Rushing

Antioch, CA

August 31, 2023

To the Board of Supervisors

I'm composing this letter to express the anguish and disappointment I feel as an African American resident living in East Contra Costa County. I work and attend Church in Antioch. I am saddened by the awful events that have gone on in the County. I truly appreciate the funding for a feasibility study. However, I believe we all know the money allocated isn't enough and with that said, all we have to do is look at the data that states that African-Americans are the most harmed and neglected throughout the county systems.

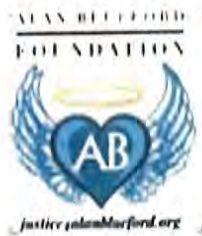
I have a grandson that have lived in Antioch for the last 15 years because of the damage that the people that are supposed to protect and serve has left on his psyche, he is afraid to walk the streets of Antioch. There is no where he can go to feel safe and see other peers like himself. We need an African-American holistic wellness hub It is apparent, that nothing else is working for our youth, nor our community. As our faith community pray for a change, prayerfully, you will be instrumental in the change happening in East Contra Costa County.

Sincerely,

Elder Desiree Rushing

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you today as an African-American resident of this county, deeply concerned about the state of affairs within our community. While I appreciate the recent allocation of funding for a feasibility study, I feel compelled to express my sentiments on the matter. To begin with, I would like to acknowledge the positive intentions behind the feasibility study, which is an important step towards addressing the systemic issues faced by African-American residents in our county. However, I must emphasize that it may not be the most effective solution at this time. The challenges and hardships African Americans face in our community are not a new or obscure issue that necessitates further study. There is an abundance of data and lived experiences that unequivocally demonstrate the disparities and inequalities we face. In the spirit of true transparency and accountability, I implore each member of the Board of Supervisors to consider sharing your personal feelings and perspectives on this matter. It is crucial for you to understand the gravity of the situation from the viewpoint of the very residents you serve. Only by acknowledging the depth of our pain and frustration can we collectively work towards meaningful change. The statistics are clear, African Americans in our county face significant disparities in education, healthcare, housing, employment, and criminal justice. These disparities are not the result of chance but rather a consequence of historical and systemic injustices that persist to this day. It is our responsibility as public servants to take immediate action to address these injustices. Instead of investing resources in further studies, I urge you to allocate funding towards initiatives that directly address the needs of our community. This may include targeted programs for education and job training, affordable housing initiatives, healthcare access improvements, and police reform measures aimed at ensuring equitable treatment for all residents. In conclusion, I ask that you reconsider the allocation of resources and prioritize concrete actions to uplift and empower African-American residents in our county. By taking swift and meaningful steps towards addressing systemic inequities, we can



August 31, 2023

To: The Contra Costa Board Of Supervisors,

My name is Jeralynn Brown-Blueford. I am writing this letter to express the deep anguish, agony, and distress I feel as an African-American Mother, Grandmother, and Employee within Contra Costa County. I am grateful and appreciative of the funding for the feasibility study, however with all honesty I don't feel it is enough funding to support the needs, or demands that are needed for our African American Community. I am being truly transparent when I say; that there is NO need to study the widely known facts backed up with data detailing the truth about African Americans being the most undervalued, overlooked, and mistreated in most county-led agencies.

I would like to share my perspective and feelings as a Mother, Community Chaplain, and concerned Employee of Contra Costa County. The African-American Community has several reasons (as data shows) to feel that there is no need for this study. We know the results of not having suitable healthcare, affordable housing, proper education, and safe schools. We know what it is to not have public trust in our judicial system and police departments. Families like mine have first-hand experience with Antioch Police Officer's racially motivated text messages. My family knows firsthand their discussions about falsifying evidence and beating up suspects (My Son was beaten up very badly by APD). We know firsthand how they were making homophobic remarks and using sexually explicit language in 2020 and 2021. My Son had experienced all of this with the APD, in February 2020.

My Son suffered PTSD, Depression, and anxiety from the murder of his younger brother at the hands of an OPD Officer. My Son was accosted by two APD officers while walking to his car from the convent store. He said, "The APD officers called him the "N" word, and other racial despairing names. When he asked them why they were harassing him, "they said because you looked suspicious. "He asked, "Suspicious or black?" The response was, "Both". They asked him for his identification, and when he bent down to retrieve it from the middle compartment of his car they jumped on him and began, punching him. He was hit in the head with a service pistol so many times, the handle broke. He was screaming, "Kill me, kill me, like you did my brother." They arrested him and called for an ambulance to attend to his bleeding skull. While inside the ambulance one of the APD officers contained the name-calling, pulled out his cell phone, and began showing him pictures of dead bodies. My Son had a complete mental breakdown after this experience. My Son was arrested for resisting. Nobody listened to him when he shared his experience in court, the prosecutor never investigated what the officers did to him. Even after watching the videotape. The Racial Justice Act prohibits state or county officers from pursuing or securing criminal convictions or sentences based on race, ethnicity, or natural origin.

To the Board of Supervisors,

I am writing this letter to express the deep pain I feel as an African American resident in this county. I am appreciative of the funding for a feasibility study, however, I do not feel it's enough and in true transparency, there is no need to study a widely known fact that is backed up by data that African Americans are the most harmed and neglected in county-led systems.

I've had my share of experiences being a victim of racism and a victim of having family with mental health issues been treated wrong by law enforcement and by judges with a lack of experience dealing with individuals with mental health issues. African Americans need to be on the extinct list, we need to be protected at all cost. We deserve help and a fighting chance at success.

Sincerely,

Joey Taylor

To the Board of Supervisors,

I am writing this letter to express the deep pain I feel as an African American resident in this county and also work as a peer counselor. I am appreciative of the funding for a feasibility study, however, I do not feel it's enough and in true transparency, there is no need to study a widely known fact that is backed up by data that African Americans are the most harmed and neglected in county-led systems.

Growing up as an African American male is very puzzling, especially in this county. Growing up in foster care I had to overcome being abused and taken advantage of, then into emancipation the system which was a whole new world of discrimination and poverty. Surviving gun violence and death has its toll but encountering prejudice police officers that are supposed to protect and serve was horror-striking, not knowing if I going to live or die because the color of my skin haunts me to this day. I have a 14yr daughter who has seen her father beating by the police because I made the mistaken of being associated with a crime, now she afraid of being around the people that suppose to keep the citizens safe.

As an African American male in this county there are not many facilities ran by African Americans that I can go to and feel wanted. I want my daughter to feel safe with people who have been through what she's been through so she can express her feelings and move pass her trauma. An African American Wellness Hub can be a step for healing and positive enlightenment on the law and people who supposed to protect us. Hopefully this letter can help u see a little of what some of the difficulties of what the citizens of your county going through and there's many more going through this and more.

Sincerely,

John Taylor

To the Board of Supervisors,

I am writing this letter to express my heartfelt concern as an African American, employee and church member in this county. There seems to be no safe space, place, or open door for my people to help meet the need for advancing to greater!

I am very appreciative to hear of the funding for a feasibility study, however, I do not feel it's enough and in true transparency, there is no need to study a widely known fact that is backed up by data that can be found everywhere. African Americans are the most harmed and neglected in county-led systems.

In other words, a Wellness Hub is definitely needed at this time. A place of empowerment, connection, and that of a fueling station. I myself have been harassed by the police, and felt moments of helplessness and wasn't clear on what to do next or who to talk to about it.

In my closing, declare with me a Wellness Hub shall be established in this county, in Jesus name Amen!! Let it be known the need is great!

Thank you,

JaCoree Prothro

To the Board of Supervisors,

I am writing this letter to express the deep pain I feel as an African American resident and African American Youth leader in this county. I am appreciative of the funding for a feasibility study, however, I do not feel it's enough and in true transparency, there is no need to study a widely known fact that is backed up by data that African Americans are the most harmed and neglected in county-led systems.

I think it's imperative to have an African American holistic hub. We are living in troubled times in this nation and exclusively in Contra Costa County. Being African American and a male, I have felt discriminated against and have been misunderstood. I feel a holistic hub with resources will help raise awareness, self-esteem, and opportunities. Many complain about the rising violence in Antioch and I think an African American Holistic Hub with relations with outside sources and resources will be a great benefit to the African American Community. I believe the hub will bring out the best of a misunderstood suppressed community

Sincerely,

Kentrell Hall

To the Board of Supervisors,

I am writing this letter to express the deep pain I feel as an African American resident in this county. I am appreciative of the funding for a feasibility study, however, I do not feel it's enough and in true transparency, there is no need to study a widely known fact that is backed up by data that African Americans are the most harmed and neglected in county-led systems.

Again, although I am grateful for the funds allocated for the feasibility study, it is an insult to us in the African American community that our people are being slaughtered by law enforcement officers. Feasibility studies are not needed, but an African American Holistic Wellness Hub is needed now. Let's have more action and stop the stalling. I'm Kenneth Robinson and I am campaigning with 40 Voices and Contra Costa African American community for an African American Holistic Wellness Hub now!

Sincerely,

Kenneth Robinson

To the Board of Supervisors,

I just wanted to express to you how badly I feel and deeply concerned I am as an African American parent, and culture. Our sons and daughter have no safe places.

We truly appreciate the funding given towards study, however, I'm a little confused why it was given for study when it's been proven over and over down through the years. Media, publication, and documentaries has proven our people are the most harmed individuals, suffering at the hands of police brutality, being falsely accused ect. No study is needed. We need our wellness HUB.

With tears in my eyes I've had heart to heart conversations with family, friends, and some neighbors that really don't understand our struggle, and how our children are most harmed. Expressing to them how sad I felt bringing my African American sons into this corrupt world.

My sons have been harassed in our own neighborhood, police detaining them because they were driving in our neighborhood, asking what your reason for being in this area. My grandsons has heard and seen so many horrific stories that they now fear the police. This is devastating to a parent and grandparent.

I may not be here to love, guide and oversee them but at least they will have a place to turn. This is not for just my children, but for your children too. The wellness HUB is necessary for us to have a safe place to share and be a support to one another, a place of resources for our people to

To the Board of Supervisors,

I am writing this letter to Express the deep pain I feel as an African-American resident and an employee of NAMI Contra Costa. I am appreciated of the findings for a feasible study, however, I do not feel it's enough, and in true transparency, there is no need to study a weekly known fact that is backed up by data that African-Americans are the most harmed at neglected in this county led by this system.

I feel the more we gain the more we lose. We take a step forward just to have the system push us 10 steps back we can say things are getting better but in reality, it's not, from the police department to the government to the city officials from the words of a great poet Dr. Martin Luther King's speech. I have a dream in reality. We have made some progress but not enough. There's still a lot of racism here in America.

Sincerely,

Marc King



PHILIP H. ARNOLD, JR.

Brentwood, CA

September 5, 2023

The Honorable Supervisor John Gioia, Chair, 1st District
The Honorable Supervisor Federal D. Glover, Vice Chair, 5th District
The Honorable Supervisor Candace Andersen, 2nd District
The Honorable Supervisor Diane Burgis, 3rd District
The Honorable Supervisor Ken Carlson, 4th District

RE: African American Holistic Wellness Center

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am bound to write this letter to you to go on record as a lived experience personal reference for you to immediately move forward with your open support and establishment of our county's African American Holistic Wellness Center with Antioch as the ideal and preferred location.

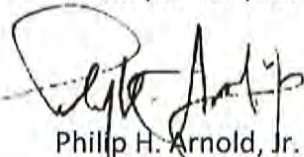
You know me by my work product over the past 34 years as a Contra Costa County resident that I have been interested, involved, and invested in the social welfare and education for all age groups within the county's African American constituents from toddlers to centenarians like mother Rochester Henry. This is not about my credentials but more about you doing the right thing with deliberate speed to affirm that Contra Costa County is a good safe place to live, worship, work, and play for African American families regardless of generation. Missing from that equation is a go to place.

I want to publicly thank you as our Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors collectively and individually for staying the course on your publically proclaimed desire to promote racial equity both internally and externally in all of Contra Costa County. Your African American Holistic Wellness Center within Antioch is not only feasible but much needed right now as a safe haven for truth and understanding given the history being made .

*"Cowardice asks the question, is it safe? Expediency asks the question, is it politic?
Vanity asks the question, is it popular? But conscience asks the question, is it right?
And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic,
nor popular, but one must take it because it is right."*

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

Thank you for your consideration,



Philip H. Arnold, Jr.

Certified Med-Cal Peer Support Specialist MPSS-MVJZYQ

To the Board of Supervisors,

I am writing this letter because I see the struggles of African Americans in Contra Costa County. As a young African-American female that frequent the county often. The feasibility study is not enough to support the needs of African-American residents. As we appreciate the funding for a feasibility study. A wellness hub will be a home with many useful resources for individuals and families dealing with mental illness. The growth for mental illness in our community is at its high. African-Americans are the most harmed and neglected in our county. A wellness hub will be a great contribute to our community that would provide counseling, emotional support, learn coping skills, and strategies to overcome Pacific challenges. I hope this latter does not go on heard we need the help in our county.

Sincerely,

Renee Reece

Contra Costa County

August 31, 2023

To the Board of Supervisors,

I am writing this letter to express the deep pain I feel as an African American resident of the city of San Ramon and a small business owner in the city of Alamo, in this county. I am appreciative of the funding for a feasibility study, however, I do not feel it's enough and in true transparency, there is no need to study a widely known fact that is backed up by data that African Americans are the most harmed and neglected in county-led systems.

I have personally experienced the unwelcoming stares while grocery shopping at my local grocery store even being questioned how is it that I live here. Owning a business in Alamo, I've been questioned by my neighboring business owners how did I get to work in the area and my privacy has been compromised multiple times due to the lack of respect from my neighboring business owners opening my door and moving my advertisement around because they are visibly bothered that I am able to be operating in the same space as them. It has made me very hurt at times and has made me have to be extra aware of my surroundings just because I'm black working in this city.

I've had neighboring business owners stop and question my clients asking them why are they coming to get services from me which has made my clients notice the discrimination and harassment I've had to deal with it is painful and at times very scary when all I am is a hard working citizen just doing my job and trying to feel safe in the place that I live.

Sincerely,

Rhyann Williams

To the Board of Supervisors,

Policemen in Martinez set off a chain reaction that ended with two BLACK people dead and one BLACK MAN locked up with nobody brought to justice for causing it... Issues like this make it hard to be comfortable living day to day in areas where you have to look out for the police the same way you have to look out for the criminal. What makes it worst is that the police are put in place to protect us but when we call for protection they arrive with a shoot first mentality and on occasion end up making situations worse than before they arrive. Now don't get me wrong I'm never going to say that Police have an easy job and i want to give the utmost respect to the Officers that take protecting and serving serious and carry out their task the right way with honor but we all know the saying that one rotten apple can spoil the bunch, it seen like that bunch is starting to ROT.

I mentioned The city of Martinez earlier because I live in the same county that that city is in. Also, I mentioned Martinez's police force because I live in a city "Antioch" that Also has a police force that is filled with let's just say "Rotten apples" for lack of better words. Far too often we see these types for similarities when dealing with police and the way they respond when dealing with African American civilians, we are over policed, under respected and far too often our ripe apples are handled as if they are rotten before they even get a chance to show who or what they are based the image that is portrayed in mass media of what the typical Black person is.

Whenever you see a slogan being promoted stating that Blue lives matter to combat a Slogan created by people who was brought to this country against their will and victimized ever since and shown time and time again that their life doesn't should be all the proof you need to understand why we need an African American wellness hub. Not just for those who have been victimized by the powers that be but also those who have indirectly been effected by these systemic traps that have been set, whether it be the wage gap, homelessness, the so-called war on drugs, lack of access to medical and so on and so forth. I could go on but I don't want to be long winded just wanted to speak my peace and pray it doesn't fall on deaf ears.

Sincerely,

Shannon Brantley

To the Board of Supervisors,

I am writing this letter to express the deep pain I feel as an African American resident living in Orinda, Contra Costa County. I am appreciative of the funding for a feasibility study, however, I do not feel it's enough and in true transparency, there is no need to study a widely known fact that is backed up by data that African Americans are the most harmed and neglected in county-led systems.

From my perspective as a sixteen year old high school student an event occurred that continues to haunt me today. I want to walk you through a situation I encountered. Upon my walk to high school one early morning, I waited at the bus stop thinking it was a normal day. Then two police officers questioned me, asking "what was I doing there?" They asked to see my bag. Then asked if they could open my bag. After a brief conversation with the police, I was informed it was a holiday and school was out. They had no reason to stop me or ask to search my bag. Even though this event happened some years ago, I can still remember that very day. I felt like my privacy was violated because they took advantage of my youth and I was a victim of profiling because I am African American.

Thank you,

Steven Smith

To the Board of Supervisors,

I am writing this letter to express the deep pain I feel as an African American being employed in Contra Costa County and having family members who reside in this county.

First, I am appreciative of the 80K funding for the feasibility study; however, I am discouraged that a study needed to be done in the first place. Clearly the data shows that African Americans only make up 9% and of the 9% a third 1/3 end up being booked in county jail and over 26% are charged with criminal cases of the 9%. 41% make up the juvenile probationers. This is very alarming while BIPOC communities are the most affected when it comes to incarceration, homelessness, mental health, and killings by Police. Truly a feasibility study did not need to happen when the data clearly lets us know African Americans are the most harmed.

Again, it saddens me that when other nationalities request funding for improvement in areas where they're concerned there is a lack or need. The county does not have a problem funding, but when it comes to African Americans it is always a lesser priority. We must reinvest funding into the African American community. If American is the land of the free and equal opportunities, then why is it so hard for the funding to be released so that an African American Holistic center can be approved for opening in the Antioch area. Where we know, this will help improve the condition of Antioch and then building other Hubs that will improve the entire county.

Thanks,

Rev. Wanda Johnson, MHR.

(Mother of Oscar Grant III)

To the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Kia'Ora Henson and I am writing this letter to express the deep pain I feel as an African American employee in this county. I am appreciative of the funding for a feasibility study, however, I do not feel it's enough and in true transparency, there is no need to study a widely known fact that is backed up by data that African Americans are the most harmed and neglected in county-led systems.

It is imperative that the wellness hub is up and running as soon as possible. My family and I are currently dealing with my brother who is experiencing a mental crisis now and we need the support not only for him but for us as a family as a whole. I want to remind everyone that a crisis doesn't occur Monday-Friday from 9-5pm. It can happen before business hours and after business hours. The wellness hub is needed now.

Thank you for your time,

Kia'Ora Henson

September 1, 2023

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am writing this letter as a Contra Costa resident who is very excited about the African American Holistic Hub. As you know, my son Miles Hall was killed by police while having a mental health emergency. He really didn't feel comfortable living in Walnut Creek because of his black skin and felt discriminated by the people that live there. He needed to have a place to go and having this hub will create safety. As you know this initiative is urgent and I believe waiting to create a feasibility study isn't necessary and we need to get this funding of this hub done right away. As we know African Americans are the most harmed and neglected in county-led systems.

Please make sure to prioritize funding this hub right away.

Thank you,

Taun Hall
Executive Director
The Miles Hall Founda

To the Board of Supervisors,

I am writing this letter to express the deep pain I feel as an African American resident, as a African American Employee and as someone that has been in church all my life in this county. I am appreciative of the funding for a feasibility study, however, I do not feel it's enough and in true transparency, I believe that we need more protection and somewhere safe to go as African Americans this is a known fact that is backed up by data that African Americans are the most harmed and neglected in county-led systems. Please understand our concern for our own people this is something that we NEED it's not a want and do believe that we can make this happen. As a African American father I do feel that this is a necessity. I've gone through police harassment, being racially profiled etc and I know I'm not the only one, so please hear our voices it's much appreciated.

Thank you,

Tyler Bradford

To the Board of Supervisors,

I am writing this letter to express the deep pain I feel as an African American resident, business owner, and church member in this county. I come across so many different people and families myself included that are in dire need of resources for mental health, specifically from an African American pov. I am appreciative of the funding for a feasibility study, however, I do not feel it's enough and in true transparency, there is no need to study a widely known fact that is backed up by data that African Americans are the most harmed and neglected in county-led systems. I feel as though this county and specifically the city of Antioch has been greatly neglected for one reason or another. Please show that you care or are at least paying attention. I and others have expressed becoming increasingly weary about the area and county but have noticed being overlooked. As a black woman, mother and a wife I feel this funding is more than necessary. The lack of funds is what pushes people into a place of desperation and it puts our people on the defense resulting in decisions that can be harmful long term. This funding will help keep our community in an offensive position and avoid a lot of negative outcomes because we are able to provide the resources and remain on the side of right.

Thank you,

Auriel Shelton

Contra Costa County Resident and Business Owner

To the board of supervisors, I am writing this letter to convey my worries as a young black american. We are one of the most disturbed races in this county, because of the pain my people have endured (specifically the young people). We are in need of a wellness center here in Antioch, importantly in Antioch because it is here where black teens have suffered some of the most violence, hate, and discrimination. So it is with great hope and aspiration that I ask for you to provide us the funds necessary to achieve this much needed center.

Signed

Gabrielle Benjamin
(Gabrielle Benjamin)

Dear board of supervisors,

It is with great respect and aspiration that I ask of you to provide the appropriate funding to

support our need of having a holistic wellness center for the young black teens who have survived violence, discrimination and hate in Antioch and need a place to feel safe.
Thank you for considering this request.

Signed

Gabrielle Benjamin

(Gabrielle Benjamin)

To the board of Supervisors,

I am writing this letter to express my deep ^{Sorrow} ~~pain~~ as an African American youth in a neglectful city full of Black and youthful harm. A wellness center in Antioch for black youth would create a gateway to healing, community and healing in the young black community. A wellness center would provide tutoring, activities, and an overall place for people to feel they belong without being profiled and harassed by the police, who ironically are there to protect and serve the community. Thank you for your time.

With kind regards, Christian Taylor

the

I'm writing this letter to the board
of super visors. I'm writing this letter to
convey the deep pain I feel as an African
american citizen, I appreciate the funding
but I don't feel that's enough. We need
a wellness center in the city of auburn
I need a place to relax when I don't want to
go home after school

Tamara Nace



To the board of supervisors,

I am writing this letter to express my pain and disappointment in the antioch city leadership as an African American resident and youth. I appreciate the the funding for and appropriate study. However i do not feel it's sufficient enough resources for our youth. Hope you will fund us, African American youth for the resources we need.
Sincerely, Ayird

Hello members of the board of supervisors. I am writing this letter to you as a youth who has and is still going through pain as an African American. I would really love to see and appreciate if we could get donations for a wellness center to help with mental, physical, and emotional health, as an African-American youth minority in Antioch. Once again I believe it would be a great addition for youth and a great incentive to better ourselves.

With much appreciation,

Talesha Falls



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To: The Board of Super Visors

I'm writing to express my pain as an African-American youth leader in this country. I am thankful for the ~~Grading~~^{Funding} for a feasibility study. But I do not feel its enough nor in true transparency. African-Americans are the most harmed, and hated. I believe we should make an safe place for our ~~children~~_{children}.

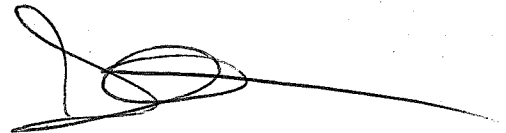
'Hello members of board of supervisors
i am writing this letter To you as i am
Still going through pain. as in african american
~~that~~ i would be very appreated if we were a
~~also~~ donation for our youth center. To help with
The physical + emotional health as a young african
american minority in ^{antioch} ~~atiech~~. i jus want To add
That ~~that~~ we would Really like a ^{health} ~~total~~ community

Oyami Haynes

To our Board of Supervisors

As A parent, resident + youth Advocate
I appreciate your efforts in reaching
our community. However it is imperative
to advocate + reach those most
harmed in the city of Atlanta.
We are in desperate need of An
African American Holistic wellness
center. Please support us as
we support others.

Israel Owens

A stylized handwritten signature, likely of Israel Owens, featuring a large, looped initial 'I' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

To the board of supervisors, I am writing this letter to express the pain as an African American in this county. I am appreciative of the funding for a feasibility study, however, I do not feel like it's enough and in true transparency I feel like it's getting worse. We need an African American Wellness Center in Antioch.

Sincerely,
Micah Cosby

1.11.18

A Micah Cosby

Hi members of the board im appreciative as
an african american, we need a we wellness
center in Antioch. We need it because we
have no justice and need to feel safe while
walking home without feeling ~~safe~~ scared
that we might get arrested because we are
african american.

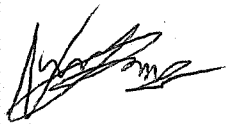
Sincerely,

Giah Shelton

To the board of supervisors,

I'm writing this letter to express the deep pain I feel as a Black resident of the United States. I am very ~~happy~~ ^{thankful} for what you guys have done, but we need a Youth ~~center~~ ^{wellness} center. Daily I feel stressed out and anxious about being a Black citizen, having to worry about abuse from the police or gang activity. I do not want to feel at danger or feel like my life is in harms way constantly. This wellness center could be what would help. Not just for me but for the community.

Thank you,
Nazzari's Ridge



To the board of supervisors,

I'm writing this letter to express
the deep pain as an Black African
American Youth leader in this county. I am
very ~~am~~ grateful of the founding for
the youth center, however, I feel like it
is not enough for us to build ~~the~~ or get
enough resources for the youth. ~~it~~

Sincerely,

Ayana Peterson