

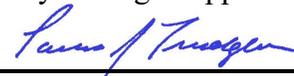
ROSEVILLE
REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Date: May 3, 2021
Item No.: 5.a

Department Approval



City Manager Approval



Item Description: Recognize the 2021 Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement *Roseville Speaks Out* entrants

BACKGROUND

Historically the Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission has held an essay contest for sixth, seventh and eighth grade students within the Roseville Area School District boundaries. Typically many teachers incorporated this essay contest into their curriculum and the city would receive essays from several classrooms. This past year had unusual circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic with students in distance learning for a large portion of the year and added strain on teachers. The HRIEC decided to expand the event to include any student in middle or high school living in Roseville or attending a Roseville Area School and allow additional forms of expression to be included.

This year, students were allowed to submit any form of written expression, painting, drawing, collage, photography or other form of visual art to answer the question below.

The students were asked:

The year 2020 has been a one of upheaval and unrest: the death of George Floyd (and other people of color), protests against police brutality, calls for reform, calls for basic human rights, the rise of the Black Lives Matter, and COVID-19. These events have had profound effects on our community and on our lives.

The Roseville Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission invites students to create something that addresses one or more of the issues, expresses why it is important to them and tells how it has changed them, their friends, family and community at large. Students are encouraged to be as specific as they are comfortable with and describe what they believe citizens can do to move the community toward more inclusiveness and become better engaged with each other.

Because this was a new approach, and given the uncertainty of how many entrants this would elicit, the commission chose not to judge the entries or offer cash prizes. The commission received three entries; two written essays and one visual art.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Recognize the 2021 Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission *Roseville Speaks Out* entrants for their participation.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION

Recognize the 2021 Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission *Roseville Speaks Out* entrants for their participation.

32
33 Prepared by: Rebecca Olson, Assistant City Manager
34 Attachments: A: Entries
35

Why

Close your eyes. I want you to imagine being on a sidewalk, with a cardboard sign, saying one word. "HELP". Then imagine a person walk right by you with a shirt that says something like "Kindness is not just the best way, it's the only way!", and yet they don't even care that you are sitting there not knowing where your next meal is coming from. I am privileged enough to say I've never experienced this, but I am ashamed to say that I'm part of a race that says they care about oppression and indifference, but most people are too lazy to do anything about this. I'm not perfect either, but I want to try.

The way George Floyd was killed made me sick to my stomach. Yet, nothing seems to change. No wonder people want to riot. Peaceful protest never really got them that far. People always want to say "we've come a long way", and yeah things have gotten better. Just remember, better can be going from horrible to really bad. I feel like this situation is like a shaken up pop bottle. We have been shaking it up for so long that no wonder it's finally bursting open. What did we think was going to happen. A light splash?

I don't understand. I just don't understand why. Why? Why must we punish our fellow man for something he cannot control. I want to sit down with a member of the ku klux klan or a nazi general and understand why they hate the certain group of people they hate. You wouldn't like it if someone threw bricks into the windows of your home and made you feel "subhuman". White people, we need to remember, we are not the oppressed, so when we say things like "I understand what you're going through", no we don't. We just need to shut up and listen to the people who have been oppressed. Same thing goes for things

Why

like, "All lives matter, not just black lives", or "Why can't the rioters just protest peacefully?". We are not the ones being judged every time we exit the house, or dying at the hands of cops. It isn't our job to be judge, jury, and executioner. We just need to listen. Slow down, and listen.

It's a terrible thing what words can do to a person. They are a spell used to seduce people. And we wonder why speeches are so important. In my mind, "They who can unlock a words full potential and can apply it on people has the same power as a wizard.

Sometimes I really wish the tables were turned. I wish the indifferent and the oppressors would feel what it feels like to be oppressed and completely ignored. After all, they should experience their own prejudice. But then I remember that no human should have to experience that kind of pain. It is just awful. We shouldn't wish pain on them because then we will become the prejudice we are trying to stand up against. The frustrating thing about the situation is that the people with the most power in these situations don't seem to do anything about it. All parties are guilty of it. Things like oppression and indifference are serious problems and we need to focus more on these things than fortnite or instagram. Mahatma Gandhi once said, "Be the change you wish to see in the world". I think we could all learn a lesson from this. We want to see change, but we just don't want to do it. I also mean change for everyone, the LBGTQAI+ community, women's rights, black lives matter, and everyone who has been oppressed for something they can not control. We need a different mindset to take down indifference and oppression, and it starts with us. We the people, are

Why

the next generation of people who have the chance to stand up to oppression. I think we should take that chance and stop it so no future generations have to experience it. Thank you.

Human Rights Essay

To begin with, throughout 2020 there has been an immense amount of police brutality against People of Color (POC). Especially against the black community, ever since the unfortunate George Floyd incident. There have been many protests against it. As a POC I think that this incident was an act of both racial injustice and police brutality. I think that this is not right and there shouldn't even be such a thing as a hate crime or police brutality. For instance, police officers and cops, their job is to discriminate against crime not discriminate against certain citizens just because of their skin color.

Secondly, I consider that some people need to stop making assumptions based on one's skin color. For instance, some people totally freak out when they see a black person or a POC just minding their business like a normal human being. Just because they make assumptions about all kinds of scenarios that haven't even shown signs of happening yet, that's no good. It's not okay to discriminate against a whole race of people just based on assumptions. Everyone is different and that's not always a bad thing.

Another thing I want to talk about is the violence against the Black Community. The lynching and murders on black people has been happening for centuries now . As seen in the shooting of Breonna Taylor. On March 13th, 2020, Jonathan Mattingly, Brett Hankison, and Myles Cosgrove of the Louisville Metro Police Department were searching for Jamarcus Glover (Breonna's ex-boyfriend) when they raided Breonna's apartment mistaking it for Glover's. Breonna's current boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, thought they were intruders and shot Mattingly in the leg wanting to protect her. The officers then fired 32 shots back at them killing Taylor.

None of the officers were charged over the death of Breonna Taylor. Only Brett Hankison was charged, but he wasn't charged over Breonna's death. Instead, Officer Hankison was indicted with first-degree Wanton Endangerment by the Kentucky attorney general for firing shots that threatened the safety of Breonna's next door neighbors. Which doesn't make much sense if you think about it because why would they indict only one person for something like that when they could've easily charged

the three of them for 1st, 2nd, or 3rd degree murder? So considering the results, this clearly shows that the system is trying to protect and avoid arresting them because the officers were white and Breonna was black, just like they did with Derek Chauvin and George Floyd. Given this information, I don't think there's any excuse for them doing that given that there is tons of evidence that all three of the officers should have been charged all together. Like seriously, I could go on and on but it would take forever.

To sum it all up, now you can see why we say Black Lives Matter. We need to start acting like they really do matter, we need to stop with all the violence and hatred against them, and not just in the United States but all around the world. Because at the end of the day we are all human beings, we bleed the same blood, we cry the same tears and we eat the same food.



Also I would just like to say that since my mom didn't get it, I did it on notebook paper because it was supposed to relate back to us and I am a school student so notebooks and notebook paper relates to me.