



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 7/2/2020

**The City of El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee and Human Relations Commission
Met to Issue a Joint Statement on Environmental, Social, and Racial Justice**

El Cerrito, Calif: On Wednesday July 1, 2020, the Environmental Quality Committee and Human Relations Commission met to discuss their commitment to seek out more community input and developing an environmental, social, and racial framework to inform their work in the future. The statement is as follows:

The recent killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery have placed the specter of police brutality, racial injustice, and systemic racism into sharp relief. As members of the Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) and Human Relations Commission (HRC), we are deeply pained by tragic and unnecessary deaths of these and many other Black men, women, and children due to police brutality and racism. Together, the EQC and HRC condemn police brutality and systemic racism and oppose the disproportionate use of force against peaceful protesters in California and around the country.

The EQC develops, reviews, and advocates for policies that have the potential to transform the lives of El Cerritans, both current and future, in a positive way. To do so, our activities must be guided by the awareness that our Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) constituency is often the most negatively affected by environmental degradation and is often the least empowered to resist systems of environmental and racial oppression. We pledge to seek out and hear the voices of these communities as we conduct our work, and we commit ourselves to actions that improve the environmental quality of all El Cerritans, but particularly people from underrepresented racial and ethnic backgrounds.

The mission of the HRC is to develop positive human relations through educational, cultural, and community events that encourage a greater respect and understanding between people of different backgrounds. Now more than ever, the HRC's mission is critical. In spite of the current uncertain times in which we find ourselves and the financial challenges ahead, the HRC is resolved to recommit to our mission, to amplify the voices of the underrepresented, and to celebrate the rich diversity of our community. Only through deep listening, sharing, reflection, mutual respect, and action can we grow stronger together.

We are at a watershed moment in our nation's history and the EQC and HRC stand with our fellow El Cerritans in fighting for change. We are strongly committed to seeking out and hearing the voices of our community and developing an environmental, social, and racial framework to inform all of our future actions.

The Environmental Quality Committee (or EQC) is a Council-appointed body of residents and businesses who work to involve the community directly in understanding and reducing our impact on the environment.

The purpose of the Human Relations Commission (HRC) is to initiate educational and cultural programs, promote tolerance and mutual respect between all persons.

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