



# *El Cerrito Democratic Club*

## *Newsletter – August 2020*

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ECDC  
P.O. Box 192  
El Cerrito, CA 94530

# 1. Special Meeting Agenda Friday August 14, 2020 @ 6:30PM via Zoom.

## Board Members:

Janet Abelson, President  
Kathy Fleming, Vice President Treasurer  
Peter Chau, Immediate Past President (on  
leave)  
Margaret Kavanaugh-Lynch, Vice President-  
Programs

Champagne Brown, Executive Vice President  
Greg Lyman, Vice President-Membership  
Madeline Kronenberg, Vice President-Media  
Carolyn Wysinger, Vice President-  
Publications (Newsletters)  
Glen Nethercut, Vice President-Records

Join August 14, 2020 Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89181154069>

Meeting ID: 891 8115 4069

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,89181154069# US (San Jose)

+14086380968,,89181154069# US (San Jose)

7:00 Call to Order

7:01 Determination of Quorum

7:05 Discussion of Proposition 21 and Consideration of Position.

This proposition would expand local governments' power to use rent control.

The Ballotpedia information on this item is available at this website:

[https://ballotpedia.org/California Proposition 21, Local Rent Control Initiative \(2020\)](https://ballotpedia.org/California_Proposition_21,_Local_Rent_Control_Initiative_(2020))

The format of the discussion will include up to three speakers in favor (a YES vote) and three speakers opposed (a NO vote). The CHAT feature will be used to determine speakers on a first come, first served basis. Each will have 3 minutes to speak. Following the Proposition 21 discussion, if necessary, there can be an equal number of speakers. No speaker will be allowed to repeat. The Executive Board determined the membership will cast their votes anonymously on Proposition 21 using the OPAVote ballot (see article below).

7:45 Consideration of whether or not to allow the full membership to revote on the four propositions determined during the July ECDC Regular meeting (Propositions 20, 22, 24 and 25) using OpaVote. Please see the meeting minutes below regarding the votes taken.

8:00 Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

August 15 or 16 (tentative) ECDC Endorsement of Candidates on November 2020  
Ballot

August 25 Special Meeting (see agenda below)

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| September 22 | Topic to be determine                            |
| October ?    | Annual Dinner - Mark DeSaulnier invited          |
| November 24  | Topic to be determined                           |
| December ?   | Holiday Party at President Janet Abelson's House |

8:05 Announcements and Good of the Order

8:10 Adjourn

## 2. August 15 Candidate Endorsement Forum

The November election is almost here!! We are less than 90 days away from making historic change! As with every election, our club endorses candidates to support for the November 2020 election. We may have two dates of endorsements over Zoom, Saturday August 15 and, possibly, Sunday August 16.

All members can watch the interviews. Only those members that have been a dues-paying-member prior to July 11 are eligible to vote (we waived the Standing Rules at the July 28 meeting).

Your vote is very important. The cumulative endorsement vote of all the clubs in DPCCC District 1 will be taken into consideration towards the endorsement of the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC) / California Democratic Party endorsement. This decision will be held on Thursday August 20, 2020.

The dates/times are scheduled, and are subject to change, based on new candidates submitting their candidacy forms by the filing deadline of August 7th or 12<sup>th</sup> (depending on the agency and their respective deadline). We will have a final schedule after the respective filing deadlines. The final schedule will be emailed on Friday August 14, 2020 along with a link to the ballot.

Join the Candidate Zoom Meeting (good for all dates and times)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84905099667>

Meeting ID: 849 0509 9667

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,84905099667# US (San Jose)

+14086380968,,84905099667# US (San Jose)

**Tentative August 15, 2020 Interview Times:**

|                        |   |  |                                 |
|------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|
| 12:40-1:00             | <b>County Office of Education</b>               | Ward 1: El Cerrito / El Sobrante / Kensington / San Pablo / parts of Pinole and Richmond | <b>Consuelo Lara</b>            |
|                        |   |  | <b>Fatima Alleyne</b>           |
| 1:10-1:30              | <b>East Bay Regional Park District</b>          | Ward 1: El Cerrito / Richmond / San Pablo/ Albany/ Berkeley/ Parts of Pinole/ Kensington | <b>Norman LaForce</b>           |
|                        |   |  | <b>Elizabeth Echols</b>         |
| One Panel<br>1:40-2:00 | <b>BART</b>                                     | District 3: Parts of El Cerrito  | <b>Rebecca Saltzman</b>         |
|                        |   | District 7: El Cerrito/ Richmond / Pinole / Hercules / San Pablo                         | <b>Lateefah Simon</b>           |
| 2:10-3:10              | <b>City of El Cerrito</b>                       | El Cerrito   | <b>Paul Fadelli</b>             |
|                        |   |  | <b>Arthur Yee</b>               |
|                        |   |  | <b>Margaret Kavanaugh Lynch</b> |
|                        |   |  | <b>Jennifer Greel</b>           |
|                        |   |  | <b>Isis Bastet</b>              |
| 3:20-3:50              | <b>WCCUSD</b>                                   | Ward 5: El Cerrito/ Marina Bay/ Pt. Rich   | <b>Tom Panas</b>                |
|                        |   |  | <b>Leslie Reckler</b>           |
|                        |   |  | <b>Carolyn Wysinger</b>         |
| One Panel<br>4:00-4:30 | AC Transit                                      | At-Large   | <b>Dollene Jones</b>            |
|                        |   |  | <b>Chris Peoples</b>            |
|                        |   | Ward 1: West County  | <b>Joe Wallace</b>              |
|                        |   |  | <b>Ben Fong</b>                 |
|                        |   |  | <b>Jovanka Beckles</b>          |
| 4:40-4:50              | Stege Sanitary District                         | El Cerrito / Part of Richmond  | N/A                             |
|                        |   |  | <b>Paul Gilbert-Snyder</b>      |
| 5:00-5:20              | Kensington Fire                                 | Kensington   | <b>Larry Nagel</b>              |
|                        |   |  | <b>Don Dommer</b>               |
| 5:30-5:50              | Police Protection & Community Services District | Kensington   | <b>Eileen Nottoli</b>           |
|                        |   |  | <b>Sylvia Hacaj</b>             |

### 3. Special Meeting Agenda for Tuesday August 25, 2020

#### Board Members:

Janet Abelson, President

Kathy Fleming, Vice President Treasurer

Peter Chau, Immediate Past President on leave

Margaret Kavanaugh-Lynch, Vice President-Programs

Champagne Brown, Executive Vice President

Greg Lyman, Vice President-Membership

Madeline Kronenberg, Vice President-Media

Carolyn Wysinger, Vice President-

Glen Nethercut, Vice President-Records Publications(Newsletters)

Join August 25, 2020 Meeting Online @ Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84303785299?pwd=bUFyY3VHVXFYTEZaR3YvSIN4dUpQQT09>

Meeting ID: 843 0378 5299

Password: 111652

Meeting Location: Telephone:

+16699006833,,84303785299# US (San Jose)

+14086380968,,84303785299# US (San Jose)

7:00 Call to Order

7:01 Determination of Quorum

7:05 Discuss the formation of a diversity and equity subcommittee to pursue the following items:

- Develop and Implement a plan to have an intentional outreach to attract diverse members to the club
- Host a bi-annual training around a particular political process, particularly targeting high school and college students. Working with their respective Political Science or Ethnic Studies Depts.
- As Executive Board seats and important seats within the club become available, make an intentional effort to reach out to those who have not served so we can cultivate diverse voices of leadership at the table
- Encourage each member, particularly leaders, to have a goal of bringing in at least 2 members a year who are diverse
- Develop a curriculum of speakers and newsletters on inclusion and diversity to maintain a dialogue around race in every ECDC meeting

8:10 Announcements and Good of the Order

8:20 Adjourn to 9-22-20.

### 4. ECDC Embraces Online Voting

Members with registered emails will get an email from [noreply@opavote.com](mailto:noreply@opavote.com). This may show up as “OpaVote Voting Link” in your email. Please be sure to check your Junk folder, as your filter may block this from arriving in your inbox. Inside the email will be a blue button with the word “Vote” in it. It will be a graphic, so you may need to allow images to be loaded in order to

see the button. Our election coordinator will be Scott Lyons and his contact information will be in the automated email from OpaVote and he will trouble shoot any issues. **PLEASE DO NOT FORWARD THIS EMAIL.** This ballot is linked to your specific email account and you should use it to vote. After you check off the boxes, you will be asked to review your ballot. When you click on the submit button at the bottom of the ballot, you will get a pop-up screen asking to confirm your vote. If you have your pop-up blocker turned on, this confirmation screen may not show up. Please turn off your pop-up blocker before proceeding with the vote. Once you click on the second submit button, you will not be able to change your vote.

Members who are the second person at a household and that do not have an email registered with the Vice President of Membership will need to rely on a link to the OpaVote website **AND** a unique code. The link and the code will be sent to the email that is registered with the VP of Membership for their partner at the same address. The email address that receives the website link and code may forward this email to the intended recipient. The voting experience will be similar to the description above. Scott Lyons will be your resource for any issues.

There will be a single ballot for both undecided Propositions and Candidates. This Ballot will be made available for voting after the Candidate Filing Date of August 12 passes. We anticipate the Ballot will be made available by Friday August 14, 2020. The voting deadline will be 12:00PM (Noon) on Sunday August 16, 2020. **Please be sure to vote by the deadline of Noon on Sunday August 16, 2020.**

The website for OpaVote is <https://www.opavote.com/>. All votes are anonymous. Scott is able to see who has voted and not how you have voted. This is important to assist you with your voting experience.

## **5. ECDC Membership General Meeting Minutes – June 23, 2020**

**Board members attending:** President Janet Abelson, Executive VP Champagne Brown, VP Programs Margaret Kavanaugh-Lynch, VP Media (Website) Madeline Kronenberg, VP Membership Greg Lyman, VP Records (Secretary) Glen Nethercut, VP Publications (Newsletters) Carolyn Wysinger

### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was conducted online via Zoom. Executive VP Champagne Brown began the meeting at 6.35pm with approximately 25 people attending. (By 7pm 36 people were attending.)

### **2. Minutes**

A motion to approve minutes of the June 28, 2020 meeting, corrected to reflect that meeting date, was seconded, and unanimously approved.

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

There was no report in the absence of Treasurer Kathy Fleming.

#### **4. Membership Report**

Vice President Membership Greg Lyman reported 30 new paid memberships since the last meeting, increasing Club membership to 128.

President Janet Abelson arrived 6.40pm, and presided over the remainder of the meeting.

#### **5. Report from Club Representative to the DPCCC**

Executive VP Champagne Brown said she was unable to attend the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County's June meeting, and had no report.

#### **6. Other Officer Reports**

None

#### **7. Consideration of Support of ECDC Resolution in the Aftermath of the Death of Mr. George Floyd**

Saying the questions she would be asking "might be difficult for some people," Isis Bastet asked if development of the resolution included participation of the Board's two Black members, and why it was not delegated to the Diversity Committee. Greg said the Board felt it important to have a draft resolution written in time for tonight's meeting, and that the Board reviewed and modified the draft written by Kathy Fleming, which was included in the agenda packet for consideration by membership tonight. Greg added that while there had been discussion of establishing a Diversity Committee, such a committee does not exist. Champagne said she read the resolution, and "felt that it was important that our white members spoke on how they felt."

Greg read the resolution to the Club.

Betty Brown observed this was a "modest step forward", and read from a letter she received from Congressman Mark DeSaulnier which she believed went further, including a call for ending "qualified immunity" which shields police officers from liability in most cases.

VP Publications (Newsletters) Carolyn Wysinger objected to the confrontational manner in which the discussion began, noting, "No one can speak for me." She asked interested members to work together to develop a stronger resolution.

Cheryl Sudduth said "there's a better way to do this," adding "there is no issue" in how the resolution was developed.

Joey Smith said she was pleased the Club took this step in drafting the resolution. "Let's make this more than symbolism. How are we going to turn those good words into good works?" she asked.

Greg suggested revising the resolution along the line proposed by Betty and Joey.

Joey called the question, moving to have the resolution revised by an ad hoc subcommittee. Greg offered to assist this subcommittee, and asked that those speaking tonight consider participating.

A subcommittee of Isis Bastet, Michael Fischer, Kathy Fleming, Margaret Kavanaugh-Lynch, Thomas Minter and Michael Tabe was subsequently agreed upon.

The motion made by Greg, and seconded by Betty, was passed by the Club, with Greg, Carolyn and Norman La Force abstaining.

## **8. Program**

### **Paul Keith, El Cerrito Police Chief**

El Cerrito Police Chief Paul Keith reviewed how El Cerrito’s policing policies and practices have changed over the past few years, and how these changes are consistent with those currently being discussed nationally as a response to police violence as raised by the Black Lives Matter movement. A key component involves officers working to reduce, or deescalate, a situation. This might include having officers break off their engagement of a situation, returning later at a calmer time.

Before measuring the El Cerrito Police Department’s work, Chief Keith said it was necessary to determine the demographics of the community they serve. One measure is the city’s population, but that does not reflect those who shop, work, play and travel through El Cerrito. With El Cerrito High School students coming not just El Cerrito but from throughout the area, Department chose this demographic as its base.

The Department then determined that 30 percent of El Cerrito traffic citations were issued to Black people – a number greatly in excess of their share of this demographic. Most of these were “fix it tickets”, which Chief Keith said place a particular burden on lower income individuals. The Department subsequently reduced the priority of such citations, and in 2019, Blacks dropped to the third highest demographic group cited, with Whites highest.

Chief Keith noted the Department began avoiding involvement in “things that aren’t our responsibility,” determining before they get involved in a situation “is there a crime?” This means the Department does not send officers out on calls regarding merely “suspicious” individuals who do not appear to be committing an infraction, or where businesses seek interventions which are best managed by private security, or pursuing complaints by store clerks before consulting store managers who may not wish to press charges. This approach has led to an overall 48 percent decrease in arrests, and 55 percent reduction in Blacks arrested. Crime in El Cerrito has meanwhile stayed level.

### **Carolyn Wysinger, President, San Francisco Pride Board**

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of San Francisco Pride, a celebration which Carolyn heads up as President of the San Francisco Pride Board. Like everything else, Pride has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The annual parade and festivities, schedule for June 29-30, were cancelled on April 15, and a new virtual online experience developed. This is “almost as much work” as in-person Pride, Carolyn said.

Carolyn said she grew up in Richmond, and attended El Cerrito High School, where she was her senior class president, and president of the Black Students Union.



## 9. Schedule of Upcoming Events

- July 28: Regular Club meeting with moderator and speakers for and against the November California Ballot Measures, followed by online endorsement vote.
- August 25: Regular Club meeting with endorsement of candidates on November 2020 Ballot.

## 10. Adjourn

The Club adjourned.

# 6. ECDC Membership General Meeting Minutes – July 28, 2020

**Board members attending:** President Janet Abelson, Executive VP Champagne Brown, Treasurer Kathy Fleming, VP Media (Website) Madeline Kronenberg, VP Membership Greg Lyman, VP Records (Secretary) Glen Nethercut

## 1. Call to Order

The meeting was conducted online via Zoom. President Janet Abelson began the meeting at 6.35pm with approximately 22 people attending.

## 2. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Kathy Fleming said the Club's bank balance is \$12,015.15.

## 3. Report from Club Representative to the DPCCC

The Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC) met July 16, Executive VP and Club representative to the DPCCC Champagne Brown said. She also reported:

- The California Democratic Party's 2020 Summer Executive Board meeting, trainings and caucuses were held online July 23-26.
- District 2 and 3 candidates are being sought.
- Vote 2020 has completed 30 virtual actions.
- 22 new members were added to the Endorsement Committee.
- Interviews are being held August 8 by the DPCCC's Endorsement Committee.

## 4. Membership Report

Vice President Membership Greg Lyman said membership increased to 170, and that a third of these are new. Some joined after the July 11 deadline for eligibility to participate in Club endorsements, and are therefore being offered refunds.

Greg discussed how changes in the DPCCC's endorsements calendar made it necessary to move up the Club's endorsement votes from August 25 and 29 to August 15 and possibly 16 in order for those endorsements to be considered by the DPCCC. The Club's Standing Rules require membership for 45 days prior to an endorsement vote, he noted. July 11 is 45 days prior to August 25. As Greg wrote in the newsletter, "The Board is suggesting we waive the 45-day rule for this year because the date change was imposed upon us by the DPCCC. Honoring the

published membership cut-off date of July 11 acknowledges the intent of the rules, as everyone that joined had no knowledge of the endorsement date change.”

Champagne moved Greg’s motion to waive the 45-day rule, which was seconded by Gabriel Quinto, and passed unanimously.

Greg and Scott Lyons demonstrated OpaVote, an online voting platform which Club members will use to cast their endorsement votes for propositions and candidates. Details were provided in the newsletter, item 6. “ECDC Embraces Online Voting”. The endorsement vote begins August 15, and must be submitted by the deadline of 4.00pm on Sunday August 16, 2020.

There are three ways to vote:

- Online via the link to OpaVote appearing in the email sent a members.
- 25 memberships are for households, and have a single email address. These will receive a separate email with a code for voting through OpaVote.
- Offline members will be mailed printed ballot, and their votes manually obtained by phone, and entered into OpaVote.

Ballots cast through OpaVote are anonymous. Scott Lyons will monitor OpaVote, and provide assistance to members.

## 5. Program – Statewide Propositions

By 7pm 29 people were attending; some members appeared twice, attending both by Zoom video and by telephone.

Statewide Propositions 14 through 26 were reviewed by the Club. Propositions not receiving an endorsement vote at this meeting will appear on the Club’s August 15 ballot. Much of the information shared during the program came from ballotpedia.org.

A motion for the Club to conduct a vote after a discussion of each proposition was made, seconded by Paul Fadelli, and approved unanimously.

Greg made a motion to approve the E-Board’s recommendation in support of (yes vote) of Propositions 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18. The motions was seconded by Betty Brown, and approved unanimously.

| Title                 | Subject            | Description <sup>1</sup>   |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--|
| <b>Proposition 14</b> | Bonds              | Issues \$5.5 billion in bonds for state stem cell research institute   |
| <b>Proposition 15</b> | Taxes              | Requires commercial and industrial properties to be taxed based on market value and dedicates revenue  |
| <b>Proposition 16</b> | Affirmative Action | Repeals Proposition 209 (1996), which says that the state cannot discriminate or grant preferential treatment based on race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in public employment, education, or contracting |
| <b>Proposition 17</b> | Suffrage           | Restores the right to vote to people convicted of felonies who are on parole   |

<sup>1</sup> [https://ballotpedia.org/California\\_2020\\_ballot\\_propositions](https://ballotpedia.org/California_2020_ballot_propositions)

|                       |          |  |
|-----------------------|----------|--|
| <b>Proposition 18</b> | Suffrage | Allows 17-year-olds who will be 18 at the time of the next general election to vote in primaries and special elections |
|-----------------------|----------|--|

A discussion and vote of the other propositions followed. Greg explained the Club could vote Yes to support, No to oppose, or No Endorsement. Each proposition must receive 60% of a vote to receive one of these three designations; if less than that, than the Club registers an endorsement of Silent.

| Pro  | Con  | Title                 | Description  |
|------|------|-----------------------|--|
| Greg | Greg | <b>Proposition 14</b> | Issues \$5.5 billion in bonds for state stem cell research institute |

Jonee Grassi said that while Federal stem cell research funds have been cut, she's concerned by motives of the proposition's chief proponent, and suggested delaying an endorsement vote to August 15. Jonee's motion was seconded by Gabriel, and approved unanimously.

| Pro  | Con  | Title                 | Description  |
|------|------|-----------------------|--|
| Greg | Greg | <b>Proposition 19</b> | Changes tax assessment transfers and inheritance rules |

A motion of No Position on Proposition 19 was made by Ed and seconded by Isis Bastet. The vote was 15 in favor, with Norman La Force and Y'Anad Burrell abstaining. The measure failed with less than 60% in favor.

Greg moved that endorsement on Proposition 19 appear on the Club's August 15 ballot. Jonee seconded the motion, which was approved by 15 in favor, with none opposed and no abstentions.

| Pro   | Con  | Title                 | Description  |
|-------|------|-----------------------|--|
| Janet | Greg | <b>Proposition 20</b> | Makes changes to policies related to criminal sentencing charges, prison release, and DNA collection |

The ballot initiative was designed to make changes to AB 109 (2011), Proposition 47 (2014), and Proposition 57 (2016), three measures that were each intended to reduce the state's prison inmate population. The measure would also broaden the application of "wobblers" which gives prosecutors broad discretion in deciding the severity of a legal charge, Norman said. He noted this adds to California's prison population, and disproportionately effects Blacks and Latinos.

Norman's motion to oppose Proposition 20 was seconded by Isis, and received a vote of more than 60% in favor.

| Pro  | Con  | Title                 | Description  |
|------|------|-----------------------|--|
| Greg | Glen | <b>Proposition 21</b> | Expands local governments' power to use rent control |

Isis made a motion to support Proposition 21, which was seconded by Ed. Isis then sought to amend her motion, realizing she had misspoken, to oppose Proposition 21. Ed declined to second the revised motion.

Noting that “lateness of the hour” and that discussion of Proposition 21 could consume the rest of the meeting, Ed made a substitute motion for the endorsement vote to appear on the August 15 ballot, which was seconded by Gabriel, and approved without opposition or abstentions.

Isis then asked that the Club to reconsider its vote. Greg said that under Robert’s Rules of Order this would require a motion, a second, and two-thirds approval.

Isis said she believed the previous vote was based upon Ed’s description of “the lateness of the hour”, which she contested based upon Janet’s statement following the vote that there was ample time to consider the remaining propositions. Scottie Smith seconded the motion for the Club to reconsider its previous vote. The motion failed with 5 votes in favor, 8 opposed, and no abstentions.

Isis made a motion that the Club adjourn, which was seconded by Champagne. The motion failed with 7 votes in favor, 11 opposed, and no abstentions.

| Pro  | Con  | Title                 | Description  |
|------|------|-----------------------|--|
| Glen | Greg | <b>Proposition 22</b> | Considers app-based drivers to be independent contractors and enacts several labor policies related to app-based companies |

Betty made a motion to oppose Proposition 22, which Norman seconded. With 22 members online (including some duplicates, monitored by Greg), the motion passed with 15 votes in favor, no opposition and no abstentions.

| Pro   | Con   | Title                 | Description   |
|-------|-------|-----------------------|---|
| Janet | Janet | <b>Proposition 23</b> | Requires physician on-site at dialysis clinics and consent from the state for a clinic to close |

Jonee said she was “torn” by the proposition. Betty observed that support for the measure by California State Conference NAACP may be in conflict with local NAACP chapter, which frequently differ.

Glen made a motion that the Proposition 23 endorsement vote appear on the August 15 ballot, which was seconded by Norman, and approved with 13 votes in favor, no opposition and no abstentions.

| Pro  | Con  | Title                 | Description   |
|------|------|-----------------------|---|
| Greg | Greg | <b>Proposition 24</b> | Expands the provisions of the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) and creates the California Privacy Protection Agency to implement and enforce the CCPA |

A motion to oppose Proposition 24 was made a seconded, and approved with 13 votes in favor, no opposition and no abstentions.

| Pro | Con | Title | Description |
|-----|-----|-------|-------------|
|-----|-----|-------|-------------|

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|      |      |                       |  |
|------|------|-----------------------|--|
| Greg | Greg | <b>Proposition 25</b> | Replaces cash bail with risk assessments for suspects awaiting trial |
|------|------|-----------------------|--|

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Greg said a vote in favor of the proposition would uphold Senate Bill 10 (SB 10), which would replace cash bail with risk assessments for detained suspects awaiting trials.

Norman made a motion to support Proposition 25, which was seconded by Champagne, and passed with 16 votes in favor.

#### **6. Announcements & Good of the Order**

Cheryl Sudduth called for Club members who voice support for broadening the inclusion and power of non-white and marginalized individuals to do so through their actions. She noted that some members had expressed concerns over items during the meeting, and that “a woman of color has been disrespected.” She said, “Take time to behave more humanely.”

#### **7. Special Meeting August 14 to Discuss Proposition 12**

A discussion of Proposition 21 was resumed by the Club. Greg made a motion for the Club to hold a special meeting Friday, August 14 at 7pm. The motion was seconded by Champagne, and approved with 13 votes in favor.

#### **8. Schedule of Upcoming Events**

- August 14, 7pm: Proposition 21 discussion and endorsement vote
- August 15: Regular Club meeting to consider endorsement of candidates appearing on the November 2020 Ballot.

Greg said the Club newsletter will be published by August 4, and include Zoom details for the August 14 meeting.

#### **9. Adjourn**

The Club adjourned at 9.30pm.

## **7. ECDC Membership Special Meeting Summary – July 16, 2020**

Champagne Brown led a special meeting where the George Floyd Resolution was adopted with minor modification. Here is the final resolution.

## El Cerrito Democratic Club Draft Resolution: Regarding the Murder of Mr. George Floyd

WHEREAS, on May 25, 2020, Mr. George Floyd, a Black American man, was murdered by Minneapolis, Minnesota police officer Derek Chauvin. Chauvin was aided and abetted in murdering Mr. Floyd by officers Thomas Lane, J. Alexander Kueng, and Tou Thao;

WHEREAS, Kueng and Lane, were the first officers on the scene. Kueng pulled his gun on Mr. Floyd, who was sitting in his car. Kueng and Lane handcuffed Mr. Floyd, who did not resist arrest, and restrained him face-down on asphalt. Thao stood between the officers and witnesses. Chauvin knelt on Mr. Floyd's neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds while Mr. Floyd was handcuffed, and repeatedly stated he could not breathe. Kueng, Lane, and Thao took no action to ensure Mr. Floyd's safety while in their custody;

WHEREAS, this intentional act of violence represents a blatant disregard for the dignity and sanctity of Black life;

WHEREAS, this police murder of a Black man, in addition to all other police murders of Black American men, women, and children, is a symptom of systemic racism;

WHEREAS, to stop murders of Black Americans we must abolish systemic racism, foster racial justice, apply strict scrutiny to police forces, and promote equity for Black Americans; and

WHEREAS, Black Americans represent thirteen point four percent (13.4%) of the United States population<sup>1</sup>. Black Americans are two-and-a-half times more likely than white Americans to be killed by the police<sup>2</sup>. Black Americans constitute thirty-four percent (34%) of the total prison population in the United States<sup>3</sup>;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the El Cerrito Democratic Club, as follows:

- We join with Black Americans in horror, sorrow and anger;
- We condemn the actions of these police officers and all other police officers who commit similar crimes against Black Americans and communities of color;
- We support Black Lives Matter in opposing police crimes, racial profiling, and inequities against Black Americans, people of color, all ethnicities, religious beliefs, sexual orientations, and gender identity;
- We support strict scrutiny and investigation of the police force within El Cerrito and other communities and call for the demilitarization of the police;

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<sup>1</sup> "Quick Facts: United States," *United States Census Bureau*, United State Department of Commerce, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045219>

<sup>2</sup> Mohammed Haddad, "Mapping US police killings of Black Americans," *Al Jazeera*, May 31, 2020, <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/interactive/2020/05/mapping-police-killings-black-americans-200531105741757.html>

<sup>3</sup> "Criminal Justice Fact Sheet," *NAACP*, NAACP, <https://www.naacp.org/criminal-justice-fact-sheet/>

## El Cerrito Democratic Club Draft Resolution: Regarding the Murder of Mr. George Floyd

- We support legislation on the state and national level to hold police officers accountable by abolishing the judicial doctrine that shields government officials from being held personally liable for Constitutional violations ("Qualified Immunity");
- We also support The Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation Resolution ("TRHT"), introduced into the House of Representatives by Congresswoman Barbara Lee, California. TRHT establishes a commission that will "properly acknowledge, memorialize, and be a catalyst for progress toward jettisoning the belief in a hierarchy of human value, embracing our common humanity, and permanently eliminating persistent racial inequity<sup>4</sup>."
- Furthermore, as a show of support for Black Americans, and because this is a pivotal moment in history warranting a major response by the El Cerrito Democratic Club, we will donate \$3,000.00 to Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation 5013c on a one-time basis, using our reserves.
- If it proves fiscally possible, we will seek the expertise of an anti-racist trainer who will teach us how we can assess and address our biases, within the next six months. If it is not fiscally possible, we will research and employ alternative methods, such as in-kind or pro bono, to retain the expertise of an anti-racist trainer for the purposes of self-assessment and anti-racist training.
- We will work to secure the safety of Black Americans and people of color in our community by forming a Diversity Committee that will, among other things, collect information on racial disparities within our community, present such information to our general membership and provide recommendations on how the El Cerrito Democratic Club and local governments can redress such disparities or otherwise ensure such disparity are addressed through our legislative and judicial systems.

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<sup>4</sup> Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation, H.Con.Res.100, 116<sup>th</sup> Congress 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, (2020).