

AGENDA MATERIAL

DATE 12-1-20

ITEM NO. RA9



1387 W. Tinna Pl.

Tucson, Arizona 85745

<https://www.lydiaotero.com/>

NOV 30 2020 09:42 PCC CLK FB

November 29, 2020

Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

As someone born and raised in Tucson, and who currently lives in Pima County, I recognize that the pandemic is unmasking glaring social inequities. I have tried to point out some of these discriminatory dynamics in my books that outline how long-time residents of color were displaced by the construction of the I-10 Freeway in the early 1950s and by urban renewal downtown in the late 1960s. The structural inequities and disparities that targeted these displaced communities in the past were ignored because acknowledging the role of race in our society was deemed too difficult and unpopular. But, as we grapple with COVID-19, discussing race is an essential step in improving health outcomes, unifying the country, and bringing people out of poverty. Thus, I support and ask that you vote in favor of the "Resolution Declaring Racial and Ethnic Health Inequities and Income Inequality a Public Health Crisis," which is on the Pima County Board of Supervisors agenda on December 1, 2020.

The COVID 19 pandemic is not the root cause of social inequities, but the data regarding those hit hardest by the pandemic and the location of "hotspots" highlight disparities that have long been present in our society.

It is a known fact that systemic racism and poverty negatively impact the social factors that determine a person's health. These factors also affect access to safe, affordable housing, better jobs, quality education, environmental justice, and healthcare access.

I ask you to take this critical step. Voting for this resolution will ensure that Pima County moves toward becoming a more equitable place and one that considers the issue of racial inequity during this pandemic.

Sincerely,



Lydia R. Otero
Historian and Author
University of Arizona Associate Professor Emerita
email: lotero@email.arizona.edu

From: [Helen Erickson](#)
To: [COB_mail](#)
Subject: Resolution Declaring Racial and Ethnic Health Inequities and Income Inequality a Public Health Crisis,"
Date: Sunday, November 29, 2020 6:01:49 PM

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Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

I support the "Resolution Declaring Racial and Ethnic Health Inequities and Income Inequality a Public Health Crisis," which is on the Pima County Board of Supervisors agenda for December 1, 2020. I ask that you vote in favor of addressing this issue.

Because of my son's continued commitment to community health centers in the metro New York area over the past twenty years, I am well aware of the inequities of our health policies and systems. Such multi-purpose centers have done a great deal to improve healthcare in a number of low-income communities in local areas. But such endeavors cannot address a problem of this enormous extent without the support of government entities. Only municipalities and counties can provide the overall direction and coordination of such efforts.

The present pandemic is clearly not the cause of income inequality and resulting healthcare inequities, but it has made it clear that we, as a society, can no longer tolerate such disparities. If this issue is not addressed in a timely manner, more general goals of social and environmental justice are unlikely to be achieved. Structural racism will remain unmitigated.

I believe this resolution appropriately acknowledges the highly visible inequities in healthcare here in Pima County. Alleviating this glaring discrepancy in health outcomes is a pragmatic first step towards bringing people out of poverty.

Helen Erickson, MLA
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