

September 11, 2020

Commissioners -

The attached letter was sent immediately after your vote to order Black lives matter posters in SFPD stations. The odds of the letter being lost in US Mail are slim to none. As attorneys, most of you realize the Mail Box rule was implemented because mail gets to where it is suppose too on a regular basis. I am rather skeptical of an institution that did not receive items that may point to an ideological blinds spot. This letter and the attached copy of the original should be posted immediately to the "30 Day Correspondence to Police Commission."

Dear Vice President Taylor and Chief Scott -

The decision to move forward with the current version of the “RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR BLACK LIVES” is flawed and needs clarification. In its current form, the resolution uses the phrase “Black Lives Matter” which suggests an endorsement for the political hate group and by ordering officers not to wear the POA Thin Blue Line masks, the resolution clearly prioritizes one group over another.

First, SFPD banned face masks that displayed the Thin Blue Line with Chief Scott stating it “may be perceived as divisive or disrespectful.”¹ Commissioner Hamasaki went further and stated the symbol is “...intertwined with hate groups and white supremacist²...” Chief Scott at least acknowledged that this symbol, which has been used for decades, embodies reverence for fallen peace officers and solidarity between officers dedicated to a demanding, but rewarding profession. In this day and age, the true meaning of the Thin Blue Line became cancelled and its true meaning usurped with no room for compromise by the Chief or Commissioners.

Additionally, critics argued that the POA emblem made the mask “political.” The POA is a union that has a right to enter into political discussions and participate in the political process like every other union, corporation, and individual citizen; however, the POA’s main purpose is that of a labor organization not a political organization.

Under Commission Hamasaki’s reasoning, the Commission and Chief Scott cannot use Black Lives Matter (BLM) because it is both political and a hate group both in reality and as a symbol.

On July 15, 2020, the Commission with Chief Scott’s encouragement passed a resolution with the phrase “Black Lives Matter”³ in it. Again, this is the name of a political group and not a declarative sentence. People agree with the meaning of the phrase and a groundswell of support across the nation has embraced this sentiment. I am sure if you poll your officers, they are strongly in support of the message the phrase conveys. The opposition comes from the fact that a Marxist hate group disguised as a 501(c) (3) non-profit political organization has taken a powerful, uplifting phrase and coopted it to shield it from criticism. You cannot get around this reality and it is not “absolute horseshit.” It is this type of hypocritical leadership that leads to corrosion within an organization.

¹ <https://sfgov.org/policecommission/meeting/police-commission-june-17-2020-minutes>

² <https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/sfs-top-cop-banned-thin-blue-line-masks-now-the-police-union-is-selling-them/>

³ <https://sfgov.org/policecommission/sites/default/files/Documents/PoliceCommission/PoliceCommission071520-ResolutionExpressingSupportforBlackLives.pdf>

What is completely lost on the Chief is the irony of his ask. Chief Scott has told officers to look past the hate they have encountered at demonstrations and support the phrase. Officers should not focus on the fringe elements distorting the message. The Commission specifically used Black Lives Matter⁴ with an upper case B, upper case L and upper case M. The Commission is endorsing a political organization which believes in amongst other things, the destruction of the nuclear family.⁵ BLM leaders have threatened to destroy the country if their demands are not met⁶ and they have argued that white people are “recessive genetic defects” and purportedly mused about how the race could be “wiped out.”⁷ Shaun King, a BLM activist, has advocated for the destruction of houses of worship and this advocacy has now moved from violent rhetoric to acts of hate and terrorism against several churches.⁸

Specific to peace officers, BLM has been attached to several high profile police murders including five officers killed in Dallas, three in Baton Rouge and two in New York City. Officers also know that convicted terrorist Susan Rosenberg is on the board of the non-profit that provides fundraising and fiscal sponsorship for the Black Lives Matter Global Movement⁹. Her conviction stemmed from her involvement in the murder of two police officers and an armored car guard in New York state. These are the same murders that Chesa Boudin’s parents, David Gilbert and Kathy Boudin, were convicted of in New York. Did you even realize two of the stations that you will post signs in are Ingleside and Park Station? I am sure that the slain officers’ families will suffer more heartache and pain knowing that the Weather Underground has struck again.

The connection between BLM and domestic terrorist group leaders that have murdered law enforcement and attacked other government institutions is not casual. BLM has sought advice from David Gilbert while still in prison¹⁰. What other purpose would a group have in meeting and associating with a convicted domestic terrorist? Are you asking officers to wall off all of this information from their consciousness? Should they also forget that two founders of BLM, Patrisse Cullors and Alicia Garza, an-

⁴ <https://sfgov.org/policecommission/sites/default/files/Documents/PoliceCommission/PoliceCommission071520-ResolutionExpressingSupportforBlackLives.pdf>

⁵ <https://blacklivesmatter.com/what-we-believe/>

⁶ <https://www.newsweek.com/blm-leader-well-burn-system-down-if-us-wont-give-us-what-we-want-1513422>

⁷ <https://torontosun.com/2017/02/11/black-lives-matter-co-founder-appears-to-label-white-people-defects/wcm/2748a714-f567-4344-8c08-decfe73d1e52>

⁸ <https://www.the-sun.com/news/1135323/churches-burned-black-lives-matter-protests/>

⁹ <https://news.yahoo.com/exposing-black-lives-matters-ties-005752013.html>

¹⁰ <https://critinq.wordpress.com/2016/09/06/maximum-security-a-visit-with-david-gilbert/>

nounced their support for Chesa Boudin in his DA's race?¹¹ Should they forget that Chesa Boudin is working with Shaun King, a terrorist sympathizer and anti-religious zealot?¹²

When officers see Black Lives Matter, they see the political organization and a hate group which is the same argument Commissioner Hamasaki made against officers wearing the Thin Blue Line masks. BLM has ingeniously taken this phrase and weaponized it to deflect criticism from their stated demands. If a person has a disagreement with BLM, they are called racist. In today's world that is a personal and professional death sentence and silences the much needed discussions between people from divergent groups to come to a level of greater understanding.

If you allow this "expression" to go forward, the word Black should be capitalized and anything after it should be in lower case with a disclaimer against the political group. The Commission should also change the resolution to match the phrase and disassociate from the hate group. Failure to show such separation would be a violation of the policy on incompatible activities for Commissioners and the Chief.

Please spread the message of love, community, humanity and not division and hate propagated by a radical group. You have a dynamic group of police officers that believe Black lives matter and can message this if you include them as stakeholders and not subjects to be looked down upon from your dais. If the officers are the most important assets to the Chief and Police Commission, show them by engaging them in the process from beginning to end not after you vote and dictate. The members of the SFPD are in the fabric of the community they work in everyday, yet they are looked upon by the Commission as interlopers. Interestingly, it appears the greatest chasm is between the Commission and Chief looking down on the members that actually have to work the streets everyday.

¹¹ <https://theappeal.org/public-defender-chesa-boudin-wins-san-francisco-da-race-in-major-victory-progressive-prosecutor-movement/>

¹² <https://www.dailywire.com/news/blms-shaun-king-quietly-deletes-outrageous-tweets-amanda-prestigiacommo>