

1 [San Francisco Youth Commission Denounces Racist Student Party in Our Public Parks]

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3 On Saturday, January 23rd, 2016 a racially themed event named after a racial slur aimed at
4 disrespecting African American communities took place in Sigmund Stern Grove, a public recreation
5 area on city grounds. The party was organized and attended by mostly white/caucasian students from
6 various high schools in San Francisco where they dressed up and portrayed negative stereotypes
7 mocking Black culture. Additionally, the party was named after a combination of a racial slur, the n-
8 word, and 'white' to refer to the majority of white and non-African American youth who participated in
9 the racist party. While the magnitude of this event has further opened up students in city's eyes to the
10 importance of cultural appreciation and not appropriation, racially-themed parties continue to be a
11 national issue, especially in universities and educational institutions. It is deplorable to see high school
12 students taking part in such unthoughtful activities. Especially as despite the diversity San Francisco
13 has, we as a City need to do more to support and honor our City's African American community, which
14 is experiencing rapid displacement. The Youth Commission, as a body representing the young people
15 of San Francisco, summarily denounces such parties, especially on our public city grounds. These
16 types of gatherings promote the continuation of ignorant actions within the community and create
17 unease between white students and their peers of color. As Youth Commissioners, we assert it should
18 be the goal of our city's educational institutions and the students who attend them to take a step
19 forward and focus on education regarding the understanding of privilege and negative impacts of
20 cultural appropriation.

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