From:	Laura Blake
To:	Grp. City Council and City Web Site; Bryan von Lossberg
Subject:	July 1st Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Public Safety and Systemic Racism
Date:	Tuesday, June 30, 2020 11:08:47 PM

Dear Missoula City Council members,

My name is Laura Blake, and I am a Missoula resident living in Ward 2.

I am writing in advance of tomorrow's meeting of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Public Safety and Systemic Racism to voice my concern and disappointment with the choice to hire the white-owned and led organization Six Pony Hitch to research racism in Missoula. **It is crucial that the efforts to address racism and policing in Missoula be led by BIPOC community leaders,** who have deep, nuanced and personal knowledge of the issues at hand.

I am dismayed that the city council would choose to hire and pay a white organization to study racism over listening to and compensating BIPOC community members. Hiring Six Pony Hitch for this project is irresponsible and harmful.

I am not able to attend tomorrow's meeting, as it takes place during the work day. Please accept this comment in my absence, and please consider scheduling these important meetings at more accessible times.

Thank you,
Laura Blake
Ward 2