From:	Kylie Gursky
To:	Grp. City Council and City Web Site; Bryan von Lossberg
Subject:	Ad Hoc Committee on Public Safety and Systemic Racism
Date:	Tuesday, June 30, 2020 10:02:12 AM

Dear Missoula City Council Members and Council Member Von Lossberg,

I'm grateful to see the Ad Hoc Committee on Public Safety and Systemic Racism take steps to respond to Black, Indigneous, and community members of color in Missoula.

Though I believe listening sessions, research, and reports can be helpful in the policy change process, I think beginning a 12 week research project to create a 'structured plan of engagement' is not sufficient to meet the demands of community members at this moment. Recent protests and years of community input would suggest our community sees the issues of police brutality, criminalization of communities of color, and a lack of public services to support people in need serious and urgent issues. A 'listening project' sends the signal that the City Council does not consider these issues as serious or urgent.

Additionally, as important as story collection is, I would encourage the city council to consider the ownership of the process. Though the team put together by the 6 Pony Hitch marketing firm looks like a good start, community based organizations who have been working with marginalized communities should own and lead the process- not a marketing firm. I would think that if the City Council were serious about building trust, that putting a white-led marketing firm at the forefront of the process would immediately undermine that goal.

Please consider actions that can send a stronger signal to communities who are actively being harmed by systemic racism that this ad hoc committee will do more than just consume their stories and then fail to take meaningful action.

Thank you for your time.
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