From:	Tess Sneeringer
To:	Grp. City Council and City Web Site; Bryan von Lossberg
Subject:	Six Pony Hitch
Date:	Tuesday, June 30, 2020 10:19:49 AM

To Councilman Vos Lossberg and the rest of the Missoula City Council:

My name is Tess Sneeringer and I am a resident of Ward 1 here in Missoula; I live downtown on Front Street. I have recently learned of the Council's plan to discuss the hire of Six Pony Hitch to investigate and research systemic racism within our beloved town. I have some questions I implore you to consider in this discussion, and I will be present for the meeting tomorrow and hope to hear them discussed.

A) I know you have heard directly from the mouths of BIPOC Missoula residents about their traumatic experiences with racism in this town, especially regarding interactions with police. Question: Why is this not enough information to convince you that 1) racism exists here and 2) that solutions lie in policy that you have the ability to create as a City Council.

B) If your answer to the above question #1 is something along the lines of "We know racism exists here, that's not the question, we just need some outside consultation to know more about how it manifests and advice on how best to dismantle racism in our community," then I ask you to examine why you are not reaching out to BIPOC-led organizations, individuals, or community members to help you answer this question and craft a plan to dismantle racism in our community. If you're looking for an "objective" outside opinion (aka a white organization such as Six Pony Hitch), then please learn about the use of the word "objective" as it pertains to race. If you think that Six Pony Hitch are professionals who are the best for the job, you haven't taken race into account, and it NEEDS to be taken into account. I get the motivation to fund a robust deep dive into the racism in our community, but hiring a white-led organization to do it will further alienate our BIPOC community, once again center white people in this fight, and erase the opinions and work that has already started in the BIPOC community. Overall, it will perpetuate the racism we know exists.

Please do not hire Six Pony Hitch to do this research. Instead, listen to your BIPOC community on who THEY suggest do this research, because they are the ones whose physical, emotional, financial, and mental safety is at risk, and are the experts in their own lives; they don't need white people to tell them how racism affects them in this community.

Thank you, and I hope for a meeting tomorrow that centers BIPOC voices at every turn.

Sincerely,
Tess Sneeringer