

TO: Mayor and Council Members  
Marlene Best, City Manager  
Shawn Hagerty, City Attorney

FROM: Annette Ortiz, CMC, City Clerk

DATE: April 19, 2021

**SUBJ: UPDATED COUNCIL MEETING MATERIALS – APRIL 19, 2021**

**2. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Update:**

The attached correspondence was received in the City Clerk's office and is being provided for your consideration in the above mentioned item



**From:** [Rudy Reyes](#)  
**To:** [Jerry Cerpa](#); [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Rudy Reyes comments Re: City of Santee Diversity Equity and Inclusion Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, April 19, 2021 1:59:07 PM

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I would like to take a moment to consider the horrible negative Racial history of our community. From the "klantee" nickname to the recent hate of supposed "Patriots" displayed shamefully in public.

Our mayor shamefully failed in keeping the community safe, allowing a group of racists to take over our community for one night when he locked down the minorities of santee yet allowing vigilantes to roam our city. Even declared that "DEC," vigilantes good people in the media on that night. Since then the federal government has labeled that group a hate group.

Unfortunately our mayor placed one if the leaders of that hate group on the COMPOC committee which oversees these type of issues. Effectively putting the Fox in charge of the chicken house.

As it was written by Karen Pearman in a recent union-tribune article...

**"that it is acceptable for people to come to Santee to wear a Ku Klux Klan hood or a (Nazi) flag mask or fly a Confederate flag."**

The racists feel its ok to display their hate in our community because they have no repercussions.

To this date the efforts of santee council have been to stop complaints and protests rather then be proactive and address the real issue. Racists and racism culture in our community is the heart of our problems. Nor a single public demonstrated anti hate campaign has been created. Not a single anti racism lesson plan created for our community. Not even a single anti racism comment made by our council in public. Sadly only one member of our council has taken a public anti racism stance. This effectively tells the racists in our community that they're actions are accepted by council.

We need people of color represented on council, we need people of color on the COMPOC committee, we need people of color working in city council office. As currently the santee council culture is basically only represented the wealthy and privileged of our community. We need more to seek more diversity within the santee council and committees.

I myself have volunteered multiple times to be on various council committees and even ran for council. Unfortunately it seems the choice is always a person who isn't of color. The root of our problem is the systemic non inclusion of people of color in santee culture and community including city council.

To make a equity program is necessary, as a way to increase the diversity of santee. We need more representation on committees, in the city's council office and on council. A school anti racism lesson plan could be established for further education. More inclusive public events established for community relations to improve. We need to heal our santee.

Rudy Reyes