



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS  
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS  
HOLLY J. MITCHELL  
LINDSEY P. HORVATH  
JANICE HAHN  
KATHRYN BARGER

**Correspondence Received**

The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
8.		Favor	Janet D Kelly	<p>Dear Honorable Supervisors,</p> <p>On behalf of Sanctuary of Hope, a trusted community-based organization serving transition-age youth and vulnerable families across South Los Angeles, I submit this public comment in response to the 2025 State of Black Los Angeles County Progress Report and the County's continued commitment to advancing an antiracist agenda.</p> <p>The report makes visible the longstanding and persistent racial inequities that directly impact the lives of Black Angelenos. Many of these disparities are familiar to us through direct service and engagement. The significant rise in chronic absenteeism among Black students (from 24.3% to 37.6%), the decrease in life expectancy, and the increase in Black homelessness (from 19,522 in 2022 to 22,606 in 2023) all point to urgent gaps that must be met with bold, equity-driven policy and sustained resources.</p> <p>We commend the County for adopting Targeted Universalism as a strategic approach and encourage the operationalization of this principle in all departments—particularly those responsible for youth development, housing, education, and mental health. Equity cannot be achieved through race-neutral models. It requires culturally responsive programming, tailored outreach, and budget equity that reflects the scale of need.</p> <p>Sanctuary of Hope also strongly supports the recommendation to expand mobile services, such as mobile health care, behavioral support, and job readiness services. Many of the young people and families we serve face compounding barriers—transportation insecurity, housing instability, and caregiving responsibilities—that make access to brick-and-mortar locations difficult. Expanded mobile outreach in SPAs 6, 8, and 1 is essential.</p> <p>We applaud the County for including a new chapter on Black Aging and Caregiving, which echoes what we see on the ground: multigenerational Black households bearing the dual burdens of poverty and caregiving, often without adequate support. Young adults in our programs frequently act as caregivers to aging relatives while navigating education, employment, and housing barriers themselves.</p> <p>Further, we uplift the County's call for cross-racial solidarity amid national regression. Black, Latinx, immigrant, LGBTQIA+, and other system-impacted communities must not be pitted against one another but supported in unity. Sanctuary of Hope believes in collective solutions to structural racism, and we stand ready to work alongside other organizations in achieving the goals outlined in the Racial Equity Strategic Plan.</p>

As of: 7/8/2025 3:00:08 PM



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LeShun K Coleman

As the County moves forward, we urge transparency and accountability. Metrics must be public-facing, disaggregated, and linked to meaningful outcomes. It is not enough to track programs—we must track progress. Community-based organizations like ours must be meaningfully included in implementation efforts—not just as service providers but as policy shapers and partners in co-design.

We thank the Board for its leadership and reaffirm our commitment to supporting Black youth, families, and elders in building lives of dignity, safety, and opportunity.

I submit this comment in strong support of Agenda Item 8 — the Report on the State of Black Los Angeles County — and in solidarity with the demands from Black residents, advocates, and community-based organizations calling for full implementation of the report's recommendations, urgent departmental accountability, and reparations-informed policy and budgetary action.

In 2020, this Board made history by declaring racism a public health crisis. That declaration came with a promise: to build an antiracist Los Angeles County through measurable change, cross-departmental accountability, and systemic equity. Five years later, the data and lived experiences reflected in this report make it clear: that promise remains unfulfilled. Bold rhetoric has not translated into bold action. The crisis has deepened.

The real-life outcomes for Black Angelenos are worsening, not improving:

Life expectancy for Black residents has declined, from 74.8 years to 73.2 years. This is not a statistical footnote — it is a reflection of deep-rooted racial inequities that continue to cut Black lives short.

Black homelessness has surged, increasing by more than 3,000 individuals in just one year. Black residents now make up 32% of the County's unhoused population, despite being only 9% of the total population.

Poverty is rising, with over one in three Black residents living below 200% of the federal poverty line — a grim indicator of the economic exclusion that persists despite nominal gains in median income.

Access to healthcare is eroding — with 17.2% of Black residents lacking a regular doctor, resulting in delayed diagnoses, unmanaged chronic conditions, and avoidable deaths.

Chronic absenteeism among Black students has reached nearly 38%, reflecting not only challenges in education but the cascading impact of housing insecurity, transportation barriers, caregiving responsibilities, and systemic neglect.

These are not isolated issues. They are interconnected consequences of structural racism, sustained disinvestment, and policy inertia.



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We must be clear: the shift to biennial reporting undermines the urgency of this crisis. Data without enforcement, dashboards without budgetary alignment, and strategies without timelines amount to performative equity. Every year that passes without action means more preventable deaths, more evictions, more trauma, and more lost futures for Black families.

This report reflects the hard work of ARDI, the Office of Equity, and countless County staff who have documented what Black communities have been saying for generations: we are bearing the brunt of multigenerational caregiving without institutional support, we are criminalized and overpoliced instead of cared for, and we are demanding more than just acknowledgement — we are demanding action.

The progress that is highlighted — such as rising high school graduation rates, increased median income, and robust community participation in shaping this report — is meaningful. But these gains are not enough, and they are being outpaced by widening disparities in health, housing, education, and economic stability.

We urge this Board to:

Fully implement the report's recommendations with concrete timelines, line-item budget allocations, and binding departmental mandates. Let this not be another report that gathers dust or becomes symbolic.

Enforce the Countywide Racial Equity Strategic Plan with transparent metrics and enforceable consequences for departments that fail to meet their equity benchmarks. Voluntary compliance will not suffice.

Design and implement reparations-informed budget policies that reallocate resources away from punitive, carceral systems and toward Black-led care infrastructure — including housing, mental health care, and youth programs.

Institutionalize targeted universalism across all departments, not just in homelessness. The County must develop a framework to ensure Black residents are prioritized in every policy area and that equity is not siloed.

Expand mobile and in-home services for Black elders and caregivers. Too many Black families shoulder the burden of care without pay, support, or respite. Dignity in aging must not be a luxury.

Establish a cross-departmental Black Caregivers Initiative to support those caring for aging, disabled, or chronically ill family members — a responsibility disproportionately borne by Black women and often invisible to County systems.

The notion that rising graduation rates or incomes should signal success ignores the reality that life expectancy is still declining. That fact alone should be a wake-up call. Black people are being told to "do everything right" — get



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			<p>an education, work hard — and still face shorter lives and greater vulnerability. That is the very definition of systemic failure.</p> <p>Moreover, the rise in Black poverty and homelessness is not an accident. It is the result of decades of disinvestment in housing, health, education, and economic infrastructure — all while billions continue to be poured into policing and incarceration. The County's budget must reflect its values. And if Black lives truly matter, those values must center repair, care, and justice.</p> <p>We do not need another study to tell us what is killing our communities. We need a Board that is willing to act with the urgency, courage, and accountability that this crisis demands. The time for symbolism is over. The time for systemic change is now.</p> <p>In conclusion, I urge this Board to adopt Agenda Item 8, not just as a report, but as a call to action — one that results in sustained, well-funded, and measurable policy changes. The cost of inaction is too high. Our communities cannot afford more delays, more dashboards, or more deaths.</p> <p>We need investment, care, and justice. And we need it now.</p>
	<b>Other</b>	Jan Williams	<p>The Time for Real Reparations for Black people in Los Angeles County is NOW! We don't have time to wait on reports, studies and research every 2 years to show us what our eyes tell us everyday! Black pools in Los Angeles are caste to the bottom of receiving ANY public resources. We are forced to the back of the line and are dying while we wait for basic services like jobs, food, housing. Your report statics are REAL LIFE OUTCOMES ARE WORSENING Life expectancy has declined for Black Angelenos—from 74.8 years to 73.2 years. Homelessness has increased by over 3,000 Black individuals in just one year—Black people now make up 32% of the unhoused population, despite being only 9% of the county. Poverty is rising, with over 1 in 3 Black residents now living below 200% of the federal poverty line. Access to primary care is declining, with 17.2% of Black residents lacking a regular doctor. Chronic absenteeism is surging, with nearly 38% of Black students missing critical classroom time. Policies and practices in Los Angeles created these conditions, you owe us immediate repair now! LA County Must create a Reparations Program specifically for Black people, not a universal program we know will not meet our urgent needs.</p>
		Leah Perez	The county has failed Black LA and it is unacceptable. How will the BOS remedy this?
		Tiffany Quarles	Recommendations on how to improve the conditions of the Black community
		<b>Item Total</b>	<b>5</b>

Grand Total			5	
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