

**From:** [Ann Gallagher](#)  
**To:** [Chet Janik](#); [Laurel Evans](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Anti-racism resolution  
**Date:** Saturday, August 15, 2020 2:23:59 PM

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Hello Mr. Janik and Ms. Evans,

I am writing to you after reading the Leelanau Enterprise article about the proposed anti-racism resolution crafted by you folks. I so appreciate you putting together a resolution by using resources from other communities. I believe this is the smart, efficient, effective, and thoughtful way to go about putting together a resolution that comes with centuries of historical context behind it. I am appalled however by the suggestion from two commissioners that you include wording about "a high percentage of African Americans who abort their unborn babies". Never have I heard something so not-related to the subject matter. I would be curious to see what their "suggestions" are to include this unrelated topic in the resolution. I feel they can have their own views on the subject, but a county document should not say anything about a subject so controversial (and so unrelated) such as abortion. If something related to abortion is included, I feel it would attract unwanted and widespread media attention. I would guess it could even negatively impact commerce and tourism in the county. I also appreciate the term "social justice", and don't agree that it is grounded in a particular ideological perspective.

It was heartbreaking to read the comments from the former Road Commissioner, but was glad when I read he resigned. These comments have no place in our communities. I am glad people are finally speaking out and standing up to people such as this man.

I should tell you that we own property in the county, 9201 N. Onominese Trail, Northport, that we purchased two years ago. While we are still working in the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek area of the state and our primary residence is Hickory Corners, Michigan (and obviously we are not able to vote in your county), we love our home "up north" and love the people. I do wish however that there were more people of color around as I believe differences make us a richer community. I am very happy to see all of the "Black Lives Matters" signs, (and the "Up North Pride") signs. I feel the county has to be more welcoming to people of color, not less welcoming which I fear any mention of "African Americans who abort their unborn babies" would be.

I hope you will take my comments into consideration. I know that your positions are very important especially during these turbulent times. Thank you for serving your communities, and thank you for taking the time to "listen"/read.

Wishing you a wonderful week!

Warm regards,

Ann Gallagher

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