

**From:** [Jordan Smith](#)  
**To:** [Tony Ansgore](#); [Debra Rushton](#); [Carolyn Rentenbach](#); [Melinda Lautner](#); [Patricia Soutas-Little](#); [Ty Wessell](#); [Will Bunek](#); [Chet Janik](#); [Laurel Evans](#)  
**Subject:** Addressing Your Racist "Racism Resolution"  
**Date:** Friday, August 14, 2020 12:17:18 AM

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To the Leelanau Board of Commissioners,

After reading what was proposed at your meeting this week to draft an "anti-racism" resolution, I am without a doubt, absolutely disgusted. With the widespread support to remove Tom Eckerle from the Leelanau Road Commission, I am astonished that this Board of Commissioners said something so ignorant, racist and disruptive to positive change.

The first mistake, of many, in this proposal was thinking that acknowledging the rate at which black women have abortions and labeling it the "truest form of racism" was anti-racist. Instead of identifying the racial biases that each of you carry so deeply, you chose to vilify the black community.

The second mistake, was labeling abortion as "genocide". Not only does this statement minimize the actual genocide of millions of people throughout history, but it aims to control the right that women, and anyone with female reproductive organs, have over their own body. As Commissioners, you have no business inflicting your personal, religious or ideological beliefs on the community.

The third mistake, was thinking that "pigs" could be a racial slur towards police. Police are not a race. They are people like you and me with a uniform on. Police can take off their uniform, black people cannot.

The fourth mistake, was choosing to remove "social justice" from the draft. Social justice refers to the idea that everyone deserves equal rights and opportunities, when the distribution of wealth and individual privilege is not so. Social justice serves to open doors and close the gap in the disparity of opportunity. I cannot fathom what part of this "ideological perspective" you do not want to be grounded with.

The fifth mistake you made, was removing "racial" from the term "racial equity". Removing "racial" from that term shows that you deny racism exists in this country and indeed, this county. You deny that groups of people in our country are marginalized, profiled and treated with brutality and violence. There cannot be equity for all if there is not equity for black people and people of color.

How, with all of your mistakes listed above, can you claim to be strongly against racism? All of these errors make it clear that the Board does NOT have an anti-racism stance, or even a basic understanding of what racism really is.

Sincerely,  
Jordan Smith, a very concerned Leelanau County citizen.