

From: [Michelle Crocker](mailto:Michelle.Crocker@co.leelanau.mi.us)
To: [coc@co.leelanau.mi.us](mailto:boc@co.leelanau.mi.us)
Cc: [Chet Janik](#); [Laurel Evans](#); [Leelanau County Clerk](#)
Subject: Fwd: Public Comment Submission for 8/18/20 BOC meeting
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 10:53:41 PM

Here is a Public Comment for Tuesday evening.
Michelle

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Allison Zimpfer-Hoerr <allison.marie.rogers@gmail.com>
Date: August 17, 2020 at 7:32:39 PM EDT
To: "clerk@co.leelanau.mi.us" <clerk@co.leelanau.mi.us>
Subject: Public Comment Submission for 8/18/20 BOC meeting

Board of Commissioners,

Like many of my county neighbors, I was disheartened and angered watching the Board of Commissioners meeting last Tuesday, the 11th.

Commissioner Rushton suggested that using the word “racial” to qualify “equity” is a slur, stating “it should be ‘equity for all’.” Sure, it should be; but it isn’t. Instead of citing de-contextualized and extraneous stats about abortion, what if the following were acknowledged?

- Nationwide, Black people are dying at 2.5 times the rate of white people (<https://covidtracking.com/race>)
- American Indian/Alaska Native and Black women are 2 to 3 times as likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than white women (CDC)
- Black students are suspended and expelled 3 times more than white students (ACLU)
- Black people are up to 6 times more likely to be killed by police (Harvard School of Public Health, 2020)

A statement seeking to decry oppressive comments and commit our county to the hard, necessary, and daily work of anti-racism cannot equate racism with calling police pigs. It cannot blame Black women for what it outrageously claims is the “truest form of racism.” It cannot ethically or accurately be about race without centering and demanding racial equity.

The exchanges were not a matter of wordsmithing. I agree with Commissioner Rushton that the inclusion of the words “social justice” infers “particular ideological perspectives.” Those words should not only be kept in, but operationalized, institutionalized, and believed.

Respectfully,

Allison Zimpfer-Hoerr
Bingham Township

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Allison Zimpfer-Hoerr
Pronouns: she/her/hers