



# Multi-Cultural Community Council

★ To Yolo County DA Jeff Reisig

Jeff Reisig  
District Attorney

June 4, 2020

Tessa Smith  
Chairperson

## MULTI-CULTURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY

Laura Valdes  
Vice-Chairperson

### Committee Members

Alan Brownstein

Kathy Dreyer

Rhea Gardner

Kara Hunter

Jeannie Johng-Nishikawa

Larry Love

Maria Isabel Mandujano

Gladys Mitchell

Jonathan Raven

Eric Sanchez

Sukhjit Singh

Lucinda Talkington

Jenny Tan

Clarence Van Hook

Doris Wo

The Multi-Cultural Community Council (MCCC) to the Yolo County District Attorney shares the pain and outrage of the community as it comes face to face with the systemic racism, bigotry, and privilege that led to the death of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd in rapid succession. Addressing issues of racial equity and criminal justice are the greatest challenges of our time, and dialogue on these subjects are often as uncomfortable as they are necessary.

The MCCC is made up of diverse community members from throughout Yolo County who meet monthly with the District Attorney, in an advisory capacity, to engage in such a dialogue. We bring the concerns and questions of our community to the table; while offering racial, cultural and faith-based context regarding the impact of criminal justice policies on Yolo citizenry. To recognize that African Americans are becoming infected and dying due to COVID-19 at significantly higher rates than other populations, is to recognize that the level of pain and outrage at Mr. Floyd's death outweighed the health risks for many thousands of Black Americans. They are risking their lives to protest the excessive force used by law enforcement agencies against black people every day in this country.

And while we applaud the numerous statements of law enforcement personnel and leaders who have condemned Mr. Floyd's murder, we call upon law enforcement to move beyond such condemnation and to join us in a community conversation as to how law enforcement can be substantially changed to dramatically reduce the incidents of bigotry and violence that continues to plague our county and our country.

As for the District Attorney's office, much of the community may be unaware of some great strides being made here in Yolo County.

- Community Transparency Portal: with Measures for Justice. Learn more here: <https://measuresforjustice.org/> Youtube video: <https://bit.ly/30avNov> ABA Journal article: <https://bit.ly/30aJR1A>
- "Race-Blind Charging" Project: Currently Yolo DA is working with a major university and tech experts to develop a race-blind charging system that can be deployed in Yolo County and could be replicated in other areas. To see an example of how this has been done in other places, read the San Francisco Chronicle article here: <https://bit.ly/2XYYORD>
- Progressive Programs: Neighborhood Court, Steps-to-Success Diversion Program, Mental Health Court, Addiction Intervention Court, to name a few. Learn more at: <https://yoloda.org/progressive-programs/>

And while much has been accomplished, we acknowledge much more needs to be done. The MCCC invites the insights and commentary of the Yolo community in identifying actions that will channel our collective grief into advocacy, and the establishment of new law enforcement protocols that will move us forward on the path to equity and justice for all. To share your vision, please go to <https://yolomccc.org/> and click on the comment section.

We are all in this together.