



June 29, 2020

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors:

We thank Supervisor Chan for her letter, written in her personal capacity, dated June 21, 2020, responding to our group letter (attached). Our letter sought answers from the Board of Supervisors to various questions regarding the County’s planned reporting of and responses to key indicators of COVID-19 data and the impact on vulnerable communities of color.

We very much appreciate the goals and values articulated in Supervisor Chan’s letter. That letter touched upon, in general fashion, some of the concerns we raised and mentioned the County’s recent investment in COVID-19 testing. We have yet, however, to receive an official and more detailed response to our specific queries from the Board (or a designated committee of the Board).

We directed our questions to the Board, and not, for example, to the County’s Health Care Services Agency in part because, in our experience, county agencies respond to the priorities established by the Board. Also, since the Health Care Services Agency and County Health Officer weigh factors in public health decision-making that include wage, job, and educational loss, we assume you, our elected representatives, have a critical role in these life-and-death decisions.

Secondly, in light of continued County silence in the face of a worsening pandemic, we write to *demand* the disclosure of the most basic data that any local government committed to health equity and evidence-based infectious disease management should have and disseminate.

Specifically, we ask the County’s Board of Supervisors to order the County Public Health Department to publicly publish, on or before July 10, 2020, the following information:

**African American death data stratified (at minimum), by the following:**

- age, sex, underlying health conditions, and socioeconomic status,
- facility type, if applicable (long-term care facility, correctional facility, shelter, etc.)
- place of death

**Contact Tracing Performance:**

- Current length of time required to initiate investigation of new COVID-19 cases;
- Percentage of COVID-19 cases where follow up is initiated within 24 hours of a reported positive test.

To facilitate the timely production of this data, we further ask the Board to direct the Health Department to designate a staff person in the Department's data unit to liaise with and report to the Board and to our coalition on matters concerning the collecting, analysis and publication of this and related data.

These requests are not onerous. Indeed, we consider these requests to constitute the bare minimum of what is required of competent, transparent and equitable governance.

Accordingly, we look forward to your response on the matters raised above. Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Greg Hodge, Chief Network Officer, Brotherhood of Elders Network  
Nehanda Imara, Collaborative Coordinator, East Oakland Building Healthy Communities  
Noha Aboelata, MD, CEO, Roots Community Health Center  
Gloria Crowell, Executive Director at Allen Temple Health & Social Services  
Pastor Michael McBride, Director of Urban Strategies, Faith In Action  
Donald Frazier, Executive Director, Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency™  
Candice Elder, Founder and Executive Director, East Oakland Collective  
Shomari Carter, Executive Director, OCCUR  
Daryle Allums Sr., Founder and Executive Director, Adamika Village Inc.  
John Jones III, East Oakland Pillars  
Damon Francis, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Health Leads  
H. Geoffrey Watson, MD, James A. Watson Wellness Center  
Justin Lee, Leadership Team Member, Oakland Frontline Healers Coalition  
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Leo Mercer, Founder, Mercer Brotherhood