



April 6, 2022

Public Comment

Re: Agenda Item 10, South Pasadena 2022 Legislative Platform

Just two months ago, the City committed to “review state and county legislation, budget proposals, and policies that would reverse past racist policies and reduce racial disparities..., and actively oppose state and county legislation, budget proposals, and policies that would impede the goals of this Resolution[.]” Yet the City’s proposed 2022 legislative platform does not include any of the goals it set forth in the Sundown Town resolution.

The City's commitment to racial justice should be reflected in its legislative platform. Each section of the platform should be reviewed with a careful eye toward policies and programs that reverse past racism and reduce racial disparities. For example, the land use section makes no reference to removing racially restrictive covenants, or taking steps to support fair housing practices in South Pasadena.

The public safety section does not mention elimination of racial bias in policing. The platform says the city will “[o]ppose efforts to reprioritize public safety funding and programs without proper procedural or stakeholder engagement that would result in decreased public safety services and increased crime.” Blanket opposition to efforts that realign funding away from law enforcement and toward community services runs contrary to the City’s goals of reversing the effects of past racism and eliminating racial disparities.

We ask that the City revisit the 2022 legislative platform with its recent commitment to racial justice in mind, and seek community input, before voting on the platform tonight.