

SPECIAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA
Meeting Minutes – June 17, 2020

Meeting No. 2020-32: The Special Assembly Meeting of the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly, held virtually via Zoom and streamed on Facebook Live, was called to order at 6:08p.m. by Mayor Beth Weldon.

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Assemblymembers Present: Wade Bryson, Rob Edwardson, Michelle Hale, Alicia Hughes-Skandijs, Loren Jones, Greg Smith, Carole Triem, and Mayor Beth Weldon.

Assemblymembers Absent: Maria Gladziszewski.

Staff Present: Deputy City Manager Mila Cosgrove, City Attorney Robert Palmer, Municipal Clerk Beth McEwen, Deputy Clerk Diane Cathcart, Finance Director Jeff Rogers, Budget Analyst Adrien Speegle, Police Chief Ed Mercer, Deputy Chief David Campbell, School Board President Brian Holst, JSD Superintendent Dr. Bridget Weiss along with other School Board, JSD and JPD staff listening in as attendees.

II. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

For ease of virtual attendance between the Assembly Finance Committee (AFC), the Special Assembly meeting with Listening session the video/audio recording was split into the following segments:

- Assembly Finance Committee video began at 5:00p.m. and adjourned at 6:06p.m.
- The Special Assembly Meeting recording was at the end of the AFC meeting recording. The Special Assembly meeting began at 6:09p.m.
- The Listening Session portion of the Special Assembly meeting was recorded on a separate Zoom webinar stream and that portion of the meeting began at 7:00p.m.

Municipal Clerk McEwen provided the virtually attendee information on how to participate in both the Public Hearing on Ordinance 2019-06(AH) and how to separately participate in the Listening Session.

III. AGENDA TOPICS

A. EOC COVID-19 Update

Incident Commander Mila Cosgrove provided the Assembly with an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) COVID-19 update. Ms. Cosgrove reported on the delay that had been occurring with the State labs, commercial labs. There were some issues with some of the test tubes at the airport and those individuals affected had been notified and would undergo a secondary test. Discussion took place regarding testing experiences anecdotally, specifically regarding the increase in airport travelers. Ms. Cosgrove said that Department of Public Health indicated that they were getting good responses from travelers and they were hearing that most people are

wanting to do the right thing and if they may end up on the no fly list if they didn't follow the rules.

B. PUBLIC HEARING: Ordinance 2019-06(AH) An Ordinance Appropriating up to \$1,000,000 to the Manager for a COVID-19 Conservation Corps Program; Funding Provided by the CARES Act Special Revenue Fund.

The Economic Stabilization Task Force has been developing options for the Assembly to help the local economy recover from the harm caused by COVID-19. This ordinance would create an employment training program for people furloughed, unemployed, or underemployed due to COVID-19. This ordinance would provide a grant to Trail Mix, Inc., and supplemental FY21 appropriations to Eaglecrest and the Parks and Recreation Department for COVID-19 Conservation Corps programs. As of late May, Trail Mix had nearly 150 people interested in such a program.

The Assembly Finance Committee briefly discussed this topic during the budget process. The Economic Stabilization Task Force recommended the Assembly consider this program, at its meeting on June 4, 2020.

The City Manager recommended the Assembly adopt this ordinance.

Public Comment

None.

Assembly Action

MOTION by Ms. Hughes-Skandijs to adopt Ordinance 2019-06(AH)(b) as amended in the Assembly Finance Committee.

Objection by Mr. Jones who spoke to his objection.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Bryson, Edwardson, Hale, Hughes-Skandijs, Smith, Triem, Weldon

Nays: Jones

Motion carried 7:1

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Part 1 of the Special Assembly meeting ended at 6:39p.m.

Part 2 of the Special Assembly reconvened at 7:00p.m. via a separate Zoom webinar stream.

A. Listening Session

Mayor Weldon began the Listening Session by introducing herself, and the Assemblymembers and staff present. She said that this listening session is meant to be a starting point for an ongoing community conversation. This discussion has been spurred on by national events, and the Assembly wished to hear local concerns on issues of policing, racism, and social justice.

Mayor Weldon clarified that the intent of this session was to listen and not to answer questions. She noted that the Assembly will be hearing again from Chief Mercer at the June 22 Assembly Committee of the Whole and the Assembly can ask their questions at that meeting. Mayor Weldon noted that this is the opportunity for the Assembly and staff to listen as members of the community shares their concerns and/or feelings. She asked everyone to be respectful speakers and respectful listeners as well as being respectful in the comments made social media. Mayor Weldon then explained the process of providing public testimony.

Public Comment

Rae Romberg, a Starr Hill resident said that as a white person in Juneau, they feel strongly that this is a white issue. They add that this issue deeply affects people of color, and says that we should hear from people of color first. Because of this, Rae Romberg wished to keep their comments brief in order to allow space for people of color to speak. They referenced the ten demands that were shared by black community members at the Black Lives Matter march on June 6. They strongly support all of the demands that were made. Rae Romberg said that institutional racism is an issue that white people should be talking about, and encouraged white people in the community to have that discussion. They ask for people to listen to those who have been impacted the most by this issue, and expressed their gratitude to the black community members who shared their demands with the community.

David Song, a South Douglas resident said that he wished to discuss the Juneau Police Department's response to the "8 Can't Wait" (#8CantWait) Campaign that provides policy recommendations for police departments in regards to racism. He also urged JPD to fully ban choking as a means of restraint. He said that JPD's response to the #8CantWait campaign seems to be conflicting to their actions. He mentioned that JPD said that officers are not allowed to choke suspects in order to restrain them, however, the JPD still maintains internal policies that allow for carotid control holds. Mr. Song said that he sees little distinction between choking someone and applying pressure to someone's carotid artery until they are unconscious. He said that he is afraid that in the process of restraining a struggling individual, a carotid control hold could be lethal. He said that having this policy is an out for any officers who commit to using excessive force or murder, like in the case of George Floyd. Mr. Song also mentioned police departments in other cities that have banned restraints similar to chokeholds, such as San Diego's police department banning carotid restraints, and Arlington, Virginia banning vascular neck restraints. Mr. Song asked for JPD to follow the steps of multiple municipalities across the nation and ban all forms of choking as a means of restraint.

Larry Schutt, a Glacier Highway resident said he would like those criticizing JPD to walk a mile in their shoes. He mentioned participating in a police training program held in 1994, recounting it as an enjoyable experience with great training officers. He encouraged more people to get involved with the JPD and learn how they operate.

Rick Iannolino, a Juneau resident, said that he had met with the JPD police chief several times and discussed police cameras and ACLU policy recommendations and he would like to meet again with Chief Ed Mercer to further discuss their body cameras and public policy.

Phillip Moser, a Valley resident said that he felt the #8CantWait campaign was an olive branch offered to the JPD to prove their redeem ability here in Juneau. He added that the policy recommendations set forth by the campaign is the bare minimum of what should be expected, and said that JPD's response was that of refusal. Mr. Moser said that the actions of JPD police officers have been an irredeemable force throughout history, referencing discrimination towards gay people in Juneau in the 1960s. Mr. Moser also gave a few examples of JPD responding to situations involving suicidal individuals and how their response affected the respective situations.

Katie Botz, a Valley resident shared that she was raised to believe that police officers are people who are there to help people. She also shared that she knows that police officers are public servants. Ms. Botz did not appreciate the last Assembly meeting in which JPD would not release their Use of Force policy. She said that as public servants, they should release their policies to the public. She understands that police officers put their lives on the line to protect their community, but she does not like that they still uphold a chokehold policy. Ms. Botz encouraged JPD to remove their chokehold policy. She added that in addition to black lives, there are Native Alaskans and those in lower income housing who are faced with discrimination as well. She asked the Juneau School District and the Juneau Police Department to help provide resources for underrepresented children in the community.

"Bob B."/Hayden Wheeler, a resident of Michigan, stated that he is part of a group that often visits community Zoom calls discussing issues like this. He shared that "Bob B." is a cover name, and his real name is Hayden Wheeler. He is actually from Michigan, and acknowledged that he was participating in an Assembly meeting for a town in Alaska. He said that he supports JPD in what they do, and said that they should relook at their carotid artery hold policy. He said that using a Taser is better than actually choking someone. He repeated that he was here to support the police, and thanked them for whatever it is that they do.

Lacey Davis, a Downtown resident, expressed her appreciation for the Assembly holding this Listening Session on the topic of racism. She shared that she is a black woman who has lived in Juneau since she was thirteen, and believed that Juneau was generally open and accepting. However, she also said that throughout her time here she has experienced racist remarks, racial slurs, and hurtful racial biases.

She said that she believed these problematic behaviors can be helped through learning and community intervention. She asked the Assembly if they would be interested in implementing educational programs or resources that would promote diversity and racial acceptance within the community.

Nathan Block, a student at UAS, shared that he served two terms in Iraq and recently graduated with an MPA from UAS. He shared that he robbed a jewelry store in Downtown Juneau nine years ago in 2011. He said that it was the worst decision of his life, and that he was sentenced to seven years in prison. He said he was released from Lemon Creek Correctional Facility on good behavior, and immediately enrolled into UAS following his release. He shared that he supports the police, and that JPD, LCCC staff, and his parole officer changed his life. Mr. Block said that JPD's use of force was appropriate when apprehending him at the crime scene, and he said that he respects their response. He said that he supports Black Lives Matter. He said that police forces need to be demilitarized around the country, and would rather reallocate their funding towards training.

Marianna Moreno Goodwin, a Douglas resident, shared that she is in Auk Kwan Tlingit territory with children who are Indigenous. She shared that her children have experienced a multitude of micro aggressions and direct racial biases in Juneau. She appreciated the first caller who urged the Assembly to listen to people of color. She echoed the statement that this is an issue for white people to discuss, and said that it is a difficult conversation that needs to be had. She requested that we move forward from talking and move towards action. She shares her exhaustion towards the xenophobia in this country: witnessing yet another murder of an African-American man, the murdered and missing Indigenous people, and the injustices the Hispanic and LGBT communities are facing. Ms. Moreno Goodwin was concerned that there is not a direct plan, and that we are just speaking to JPD. She said that the police are a direct symptom of this society. She expressed her wish for the Assembly to conduct an equity audit within their own system: to look at their Boards and Committees, to look at their policies, and to look at their own personal racial micro aggressions. Ms. Moreno Goodwin said that people of color are dealing with racial battle fatigue on a daily basis. She added that this is because not only do people of color live with these disparities, they are also expected to explain it to white people.

David Katzeek, a Switzer Village resident, shared that he has lived in Juneau for most of his life and has seen many changes over the years. He said that while he was growing up, the police were your friends, and treated you like a human being. Mr. Katzeek said that these days, fear is facing fear, which creates a defensive and confrontational type of spirit. He shared that we are human beings, and that a long time ago, human beings greeted each other with kindness and love. He said that we all need each other.

Vanessa Herrera, a Valley resident, said that she moved to Juneau recently, and wanted to share an anecdote from when she first arrived to town a few months ago. She shared that while riding the bus, two or three police officers barged into the bus brandishing guns and pointing them towards all of the bus riders. Ms. Herrera said that a man hid close to where she was sitting,

telling her that he was scared, as was she. She said that the police had told them that somebody on this bus had called them because someone on the bus was brandishing a knife. She saw a man nervously stand up, and then recalled the police yelling at him and put him in handcuffs. She believed that the police used excessive force, and said she felt terrified and did not feel protected by the police.

Jose Ignacio Manzo, a Downtown Juneau resident, said that last Sunday, he was pulled over by a JPD officer, and was pulled out of his car by gunpoint. He shared that the police officer mistook him for someone else, saying he fit the description of Jesus Manuel, another Mexican man. Mr. Manzo said that he was still stressed out from that incident, that he has never had a record, but was almost shot just because he looked like a Jesus. He recalled that the officer who mistook him was almost crying, which Mr. Manzo said was because the officer knew that he had messed up. He shared that he was racially profiled for being Mexican. He said that the officer involved has been personally calling him, telling him he has a summons to deliver him.

Steve Hutchinson, a Downtown Juneau resident, said that he supported the Black Lives Matter movement and the #8CantWait campaign. He also appreciated JPD for making their Use of Force policy publicly available, and for its response to the #8CantWait campaign. Mr. Hutchison supports the idea of a Community Advisory Board that would overlook policing in Juneau, as well as including social workers and mental health professionals to respond to situations that do not warrant a police presence. He also commended Officer Colon and Officer Quinto for walking around downtown and familiarizing themselves with the community, which he said is very important for the community.

K. M. Scott, a Juneau citizen, said he wanted to share his experience with racism as a white male. Mr. Scott said that he “looks like a Mexican” and was raised in a segregated town in the South in the 1990s/2000s. He saw the segregation in his town supported by policing. He shared that there are statistics that show the over-policing in lower income communities. He also responded to Mr. Block’s testimony of having been arrested by JPD, saying that it is important to factor in the condition of race into experiences with the police, adding that Mr. Block seems to be a white male. He also responded to Mr. Schutt’s testimony of having those who criticize the police to walk a mile in their shoes. Mr. Scott said that while he respects police officers, it is a choice the officers made to pursue this career that sets them to a higher standard. He asked that the JPD hold its officers to that higher standard. Scott also says that the micro aggressions in Juneau are insane, especially against Indigenous people. He shared his support of #8CantWait, and would like to see JPD volunteer to take part in the FBI’s voluntary Death and Custody Reporting Act of 2013.

Wayne Coogan, an Auke Bay resident, said he believes that if someone wishes to change the way that things are done in this community, they should submit a suggestion to the elected Assembly; rather than submit a list of demands. Mr. Coogan said in his experiences with JPD, the officers have acted professional.

Aaron Brakel, a Douglas resident living on A'akw Kwaan and T'aaku Kwaan territory, said that he wanted to wait until the second hour before sharing his testimony because he felt as a white man he wanted to give others a chance to speak first. He said that he supports the ten demands that were shared at the Black Lives Matter protest, and hoped that CBJ will move forward with them. He also supported banning chokeholds. He expressed his disappointment towards the Department of Corrections not joining the Listening Session, and he said that is very telling. Mr. Brakel shared that he grew up in Juneau, and he knows that there has been systemic anti-Black racism in Juneau; he added that this racism must be acknowledged and changed. He also said that the death of George Floyd, and the subsequent uprising throughout the world, is a broad scale acknowledgement of racism that needs to be addressed. Mr. Brakel expressed his wholehearted support for this movement, and thanked the Assembly for their time.

The Assembly took a brief break at 8:05p.m.

Max Rosen, a Downtown resident, said that they were very uncomfortable with JPD's unwillingness and reluctance to release their Use of Force policy. They understand that JPD has since released their Use of Force policy, and thanked them for doing so, but is compelled to share the following reaction. They testified that JPD's initial reluctance to share their Use of Force policy for the reason that it would reveal their tactics for confrontations is very troubling to them. They add that this speaks to the mentality that JPD officers have for these confrontations. They share that when community members raise their concerns about the culture of police forces, it is not always about racism, it is about the underlying philosophy of how these policies are written and defended. They urge JPD to reevaluate this and other policies, and to ask itself what the goals of these policies are. Any use of force is a failure to deescalate. They support the #8CantWait policy changes, and the demands made at the Black Lives Matter protest.

Sara Frank, a Twin Lakes resident, said that she is concerned about the lack of proactive effort of JPD to address systemic racism and police brutality. She said that JPD has been completely silent, and defensive when questioned. She added that it is very concerning that someone with that much power is unwilling to be accountable or confront their own racial biases. Ms. Frank shared that she has done her own anti-racism work through books and documentaries, and acknowledges that it is very difficult work to do as a white person. However, she is glad she has done the work to educate herself because it lessens the harm she may cause other people. She said the fact that there are officers who are not willing to do anti-racism work as individuals and as a department is very concerning and disappointing, especially considering the power they have. Ms. Frank supports the demands made at the Black Lives Matter march, and the #8CantWait campaign. She hoped that JPD will be more open and willing to do the work to address those concerns.

Nicole Dwyer, a Twin Lakes resident, said she wished to specifically speak to the educators in Juneau, sharing that she is a para-educator for Juneau School District. She said that she would love to have an anti-racist training in-service day for all JSD staff. She would like for this training to examine the intersections between race, disability, and sexual orientation, and how

these can effect different learning environments. Ms. Dwyer would also like to teach history through an anti-racist lens rather than through the traditional Western colonial lens. She would also like for JSD to use the books from the Baby Raven Reads program in elementary school libraries.

Danielle Redmond, a North Douglas resident, highlighted how essential it is that the Assembly listen to the voices of people of color in this conversation. She added that all the testimonies given so far show that we are having very different experiences. She said that as a white person, she was not aware of the level of violence that people of color are experiencing around the country and here in Juneau until she started listening and seeing videos. Ms. Redmond referenced Rae Romberg's testimony, echoing that it is the job of white people to understand privilege and oppressive systems, and to change the system. She concluded by asking the Assembly if they would be willing to reorganize funding to better support the most vulnerable people in our community.

Danae Caldwell, a Valley resident, shared that she is a black woman who has lived in Juneau for over 21 years. She expressed her disappointment that there was not a representative from the Department of Corrections present at the meeting. Ms. Caldwell responded to Mr. Schutt's comment about walking a mile in the shoes of police officers, saying that it is possible for her to walk a mile in their shoes and train to become a police officer. However, she explained that no one could ever walk a mile in her shoes as a black woman, to feel and understand the injustice and biases that black people face every single day. She shared that she has faced a tremendous amount of discrimination and racism in this town, both overt and covert. Ms. Caldwell added that the only thing that the black community is asking for is for people to listen and educate themselves on issues regarding systemic racism and slavery, the things that this country was built on. She said that she wants to feel safe in the town that she has lived in for most of her life, but she honestly does not feel that way due to the racism in this town. Ms. Caldwell reminded people that Juneau is not immune to racism, and encouraged others to educate themselves and become comfortable with having uncomfortable conversations regarding race. She also mentioned that this is not a new issue; police brutality has been an ongoing problem for years, this is just the first time that people are noticing it.

Will, an Auke Bay resident, said that he thinks that some changes need to be done, and that there are a lot of problems present in the current system we have. He added that if there is ever an interaction between a citizen and a police officer, it should be positive. He said that police officers should strive to have more positive interactions, and citizens should expect a good interaction with the police.

Evan Katasse Roberts, a Switzer resident, suggested getting police involved with friendlier introductions, similar to the Coffee with a Cop program. She recommended police officers wave and say hello when they are out in neighborhoods. Ms. Roberts said that she teaches her granddaughter to be respectful and friendly towards police officers. She added that a police presence needs to be in their neighborhood. She also expressed disappointment that some police

officers have not been saying hello or waving back to them. She believes that many good police officers have now retired. She urged Chief Mercer to encourage his officers to interact with the community more.

Melissa Griffiths, a Douglas resident, said that she is a white woman in this community, and has never had a gun pointed at her. However, she said she has a friend who has had a gun pointed at her twice by JPD, once in her own home and once when she called the police herself. She shared that, in instances such as the killing of Breonna Taylor, pulling a gun could result in injury or death. She believes that JPD officers are pulling out their guns too soon. She supports the ten demands shared at the Black Lives Matter march, and believes that we can do better as a city.

Karen Fortwengler, a Valley resident, shared that she has lived in Juneau intermittently since 1983, and believes that Juneau does not have as many problems as the Lower 48 does. She added that she knows of instances in which JPD has shot or arrested suspects, but does not feel they used excessive force in those situations. Ms. Fortwengler said that she fully supports JPD.

Britt Tonnessen, a Downtown resident, said that she hopes Juneau will elevate local voices and local solutions moving forward. She added that she wants us to recognize the solutions we have within us, and within our community to address these concerns. Ms. Tonnessen said she looks forward to seeing how the City and Borough of Juneau will utilize the local intelligence and resources that we have.

Lisa Idell-Sassi said that she supports JPD and law enforcement in general. She believes that they are doing an excellent job. She said that she hopes our community comes together to support JPD, and that conversations do not lead towards defunding the police. Ms. Idell-Sassi said she thinks JPD needs more funding and more resources.

Jennifer Quinto, a Douglas resident shared that her family is a part of law enforcement, and would like to use her voice. She said that prior to her brother joining the force, she was pulled out of her car when she was seventeen. Ms. Quinto described the experience as terrifying, saying that she was thrown onto the hood of her car and yelled at by the police officer. She shared that she had no idea what she did, and the police officer kept calling her “Michelle” as he yelled at her. She told him that her name was not Michelle, and the police officer realized that he had mistaken her identity. She said that he drove off after realizing her true identity, and she has been terrified since that day. She shared that the only time she has not been afraid of being treated with hostility by law enforcement is when she is in Juneau, with her brother as a cop. Ms. Quinto said that when we are talking about this problem, we are not looking at use of force. She said that we are really asking what police departments are doing to make sure that aggression and hostility is not behind the badge. She added that it does not matter what the protocols are, what matters is what departments are doing to hold their officers accountable.

Meryl Connelly-Chew, a Downtown resident, said that she fully supports the ten demands shared at the Black Lives Matter march. She said that it is important for white Juneau residents to

recognize that now is not the time to brainstorm solutions to this problem. She added that black Juneau residents and the organizers of the march have already given them the solutions to this issue, which she said affects black residents the most. Ms. Connelly-Chew added that white people no longer have the option to close their eyes from the truth. She said that racism is alive and well in Juneau and systemic within JPD. She also said that it is our job to listen to the black residents of the community, and to quickly respond to what they are telling us they need in order for them to be safe.

Phillip Moser, a Valley resident spoke clarify an event that he referenced towards the end of his last testimony. He said that on February 10, 2020 a group of teenagers assaulted another teenager near Floyd Dryden Middle School. He added that two of the teenagers involved in the assault were related to JPD officers. Mr. Moser said that these teenagers were not arrested by the JPD, and that JPD claimed the teenagers involved were not an imminent threat to the community. He said that the recommended charges were forwarded to next level. Mr. Moser believed that JPD took the most lenient measure towards teenagers that were directly related to JPD officers. He added that the community does not know why these individuals were not arrested, or if the related officers recused themselves from participating in the investigation.

Caroline Garcia, a Valley resident said she supports the ten demands made at the Black Lives Matter march. She read the 10th demand out loud to the Assembly, which focused on ally-ship and anti-racism.

Ivy Bedolla, a Valley resident, shared that she is a Hispanic woman, and her children are African-American and Hispanic. She recounted one day when her children were playing at the elementary school, her 10 year-old son was punched in the face by a white 16 year-old teenager. She said that when they contacted JPD, they did not communicate with her for closure to ensure that her child was safe. She added that when she received the police report from JPD, the incident was incorrectly documented as a drunk fight at Squire's Bar. Ms. Bedolla said she feels that her situation was not taken seriously. She added that when her children visit from California, they no longer feel safe in our community.

Jon Paden, a Valley resident, said that a police department, along with any government agency, must operate on an exemplary level. He added that all people in the community should be treated with dignity, justice, and equity. He said that government workers at every level, including those in police departments, must be held accountable for actions that show a lack of dignity, justice, or equity towards any community members. Mr. Paden said that racism remains a large part of our community's culture, and everyone must address the prejudices they hold against other races, including their own. Actions are needed that move towards a dignified and more equitable culture begins with one's own behaviors. He added that we must get to know each other, and recognize the common humanity within each other.

James Hoagland, a Downtown resident thanked the Assembly for this first, of what he hopes to be many, listening sessions. He shared that he is very involved in social justice activities in

Juneau, and is willing to do what he can to advocate for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) voices and help dismantle racism. Mr. Hoagland fully supports the ten demands made at the Black Lives Matter march, and believes they used “demands” for the language because they have already been asking for hundreds of years. He added that this is not a standalone issue, this is just one more day within the very long history of systemic racism. Mr. Hoagland invited the Assemblymembers to have an open dialogue with the organizers of the Black Lives Matter march.

Cecelia Westmann, a Valley resident, shared that she is a Kaagwaantaan Afro-Indigenous Black woman from Sitka. She said that there is a lot to be examined when speaking on issues of race and racism. Racism is rooted within colonialism, and is about power and control. She added that we need to examine the history of slavery and how it was enforced. Ms. Westmann says that Juneau has a lot of issues, and the best way to address those issues is through policy. She added that enforcing policies will be useful to refer back to in the face of oppression. She believes it is important for the city to hear the ten demands that were shared at the Black Lives Matter march. She reminded the Assembly that we are on A’akw Kwaan territory.

Martin Stepetin, a Douglas resident, thanked all those who participated in this listening session. He said that Alaska Natives face problems with JPD and face discrimination when they get to court. He supports the ten demands shared at the Black Lives Matter march, adding that it reflects on what Alaska Natives have to go through here in Juneau. He asked if we are strong enough to make the changes necessary to better ourselves as a community.

Pat Race, a Juneau resident, shared that he grew up with Ms. Quinto and Ms. Westmann, and experienced a system that benefitted him and worked against them. He supported their testimonies, and supports the ten demands shared at the Black Lives Matter march. He suggested the Assembly adopt a Resolution of Intent affirming these demands, and to set up a committee to evaluate that work. Mr. Race also added that a man was shot by JPD last year, and there has been little discussion and public information shared afterwards.

Viva Morato, Ms. Morato said that she wanted to address Mr. Coogan’s tone policing, particularly regarding the demands made at the Black Lives Matter march. She shared that BIPOC have already tried the nice way. She said that they are demands, not requests or suggestions, because no more people should be dying. Ms. Morato also suggested that the Assembly post the demands, as well as JPD’s official response to the demands.

Mayor Weldon explained that for equity to all speakers, previous speakers who only had two minutes to testify would be allowed one more minute of additional testimony time if they wished.

David Katzeek, said that he does not think anyone is against JPD. He said this is a chance similar to sitting down for a time out with the coach to discuss those things that will help us win. He defended every person’s right to express their testimony.

Richard Carter, a Downtown resident, shared that he is a cissexual white man, and expressed his support for BIPOC and Latinx people of color in our community. He believes that systems of government have the potential to be deeply flawed. He added that the most discriminated of us see that every day, while those of us with privilege should open our eyes and witness that. Mr. Carter said that we need to see changes implemented by the people who are being impacted the most by these systemic flaws. He supports the ten demands shared at the Black Lives Matter march. He encouraged us to find and fix our flaws, and to prioritize accountability and equality.

Katie Botz, asked the Assembly to implement a task force to hold JPD more accountable to encourage them to do the right thing. She supports JPD and believes that their work is important, but would like to hold them accountable.

Jennifer Quinto, said that she was thankful for the voices speaking out. She was disappointed, because these protests have not been specifically caused by JPD alone. She said these experiences are very real and JPD can be a louder voice to hold other officers in departments in the Lower 48 more accountable.

Cecelia Westmann, shared that Alaska has the highest rates of domestic violence and sexual assault as well as the suicide rate of native youth in the country, and would like to see Juneau be a leader in shifting the dialogue around that. She says that Juneau has a unique opportunity to be an example to the rest of the country and make a shift from harm.

Will, thanked everyone for their testimony, and feels it is important to have a dialogue. He encouraged police reform, not police abolition.

Marianna Moreno Goodwin, encouraged the community to take proactive steps and educate themselves. She hopes the Assembly will implement a strategic plan to implement a task force and upload the demands. She also asked them to recognize the public that is sharing the pain with them.

Norton Gregory, a Douglas resident, shared his experience of running for Assembly in 2016 as the only minority person that year. He encouraged people to share their voice, and to consider running for public office this year. He said that we all have an opportunity to become involved members of the community.

Lindsey, a Valley resident, shared that she is the wife of a JPD officer. She said that she sees officers take everything into consideration. Lindsey said that her husband and other officers are trying their best and they love our city. She added that officers did not sign up to do any harm, they signed up to protect our community.

Viva Morato shared that no one is losing anything by admitting that there are issues that need to be fixed, or by acknowledging that systemic racism is an issue. She added that these

conversations are much more difficult for those in marginalized communities than those who are privileged.

Jennifer Quinto, would like to develop a trauma informed community. She also said that she supports defunding the police because she would like for those funds be used towards better resources, such as early education. She added that putting more funding towards things that only create more trauma is not combatting the problems that are at the root of these issues.

Wayne Coogan said that our community has been going through a drug-related crime wave over the last few years. He said that we should support the police, stating that we are in a war against crime.

Michelle Strickler, a Valley resident said that we have incredible community in Juneau. She has tremendous respect for JPD and for the community leaders. Ms. Strickler thanked Chief Mercer for his leadership.

Leslie Thompson, a Downtown resident shared that she has spent a lot of time Downtown walking her dog, and shared how JPD officers respectfully engage with individuals. She supports JPD, and expressed her thanks to the police for all they do.

Mayor Weldon shared that she had taken lots of notes during the listening session and that this is the starting point of a conversation. She said that she appreciates everyone's testimony, and thanked everyone for being respectful and for sharing their personal stories.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come to the Assembly, the meeting adjourned at 9:00p.m.

Signed: _____
Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk

Signed: _____
Beth A. Weldon, Mayor