3/8/20

TO: Attendees of the July Restorative Justice Circles

FROM: Marianne MacQueen

RE: Developing responses to the BLM organizers list of demands

Below is a list of “demands” that the Black Lives Matter demonstration organizers made of Yellow Springs, initially to Village Council and more recently at the second restorative justice circle held on Saturday August 1, 2020. At the Saturday circle various people agreed to respond with different actions and research. Please review these to ensure that the list below accurately reflects the BLM concerns. I would like those who agreed to respond to let me know which items you will address and approximately when you think you will have a written response. If you send your response to me, I will insert it in the master list so we can end up with one document. Thanks.

Demands :

1. The weekend booths with masks will also include petitions, donations funds, pamphlets to make phone calls for BLM. This past weekend was the last weekend for the mask booth. The VM will address the other requests. The VM will take this on.
2. Educational reform (ex- intermixing the events of the 60s [civil rights movement + cold war]) John Gudgel indicates there will be expanded curricula not only in MLS but also the YSHS. The 11th principal, an African American, has been hired for MLS. She is the 4th female principal
3. Repercussions/ strategic plans on how to handle calls made to YSPD reporting “suspicious activity” *I think this might be a good case study for scenario role plays. What do you think Chief?* Ka’Dae is working on updated policy for dispatch.
4. Establish quantitative and qualitative analysis of progress and data of any programs established to measure progress toward goals. VM is looking at data on citations and analyzing, monthly report issued. COS is analyzing data on her end, monthly report issued. Data can trigger more questions.
5. Financially support the creation of a column in the YS News which will feature African American people and issues and causes, locally and nationally. VM will take on a conversation with the YS News. *Bomani, can you help with this?*

List of demands for the village of Yellow Springs to ensure the safety of Black and Brown people.

1. Admit that an error in judgment has taken place in the past few weeks. The chief and the VM have addressed this. In addition, Kevin Stokes addresses it in his Letter to the Editor that will appear in this week’s YS News.
2. This, most importantly, needs to include an analysis of Yellow Springs Police Department, specifically an analysis of the recent phone calls that chief Carlson has made with an alleged KKK member. The chief and VM addressed this at the two RJ Circles meetings. MacQueen and Stokes have made a follow-up request of the BLM organizers regarding the negative impact the chant “YSPD and KKK, who are you protecting” has had on the YSPD and the Village.
3. Address the lack of urgency against threats made from a member of a terrorist organization against members of the community. This has been addressed.
4. This also includes the council undermining everything they have announced publicly by reaching out to other village members in an attempt to silence the organizers. *If there is more information about this, please get this to me.*
5. Put substance behind the announcement of racism being a public health crisis. Steps need to be taken immediately to show a plan of action. *I anticipate that Council will be continuing to address this since it has become a regular item on our agenda.*
6. Be in attendance for rallies and/or protests, showing support that is not negated by complaints of the inconveniences protests have on the town. This involves individual commitments and responses. I do not believe we can address this.
7. Reallocating funds and resources to address this public health crisis. This is a long-term issue and Council has begun addressing it (see the recent letters submitted by Kreeger, Curliss, and MacQueen that were handed out at the last Circle meeting. As specific needs and situations arise they will be addresssed. *Does anyone want to add anything here?*
8. Publicly expressing what you have done to make change in hopes that this will cause a ripple effect and inspire other people in the community to stand up for justice. Village is actively doing this and continuing to seek ways to have better outreach.
9. Hold officers, council members, all elected officials, and teachers accountable for their actions and ensure they are consistently checking for the bias they may hold. This is an aspiration but not clear who is being held accountable.
10. Ongoing or regular Implicit bias training should be given to all people who hold positions of power in this community. Kevin Stokes is taking this on for Village Government.
11. Actively work to ensure that implicit biases are questioned and countered in every decision, legislation, and educational curriculum made for the village in the future. Kevin, Marianne and John will address this.