

BOATERS

FROM B1 them out on a rental, Thomas said.

Bill Edwards, rear commodore of the San Diego Association of Yacht Clubs, was among several boaters who brought up the issue at the Aug. 4 county Board of Supervisors meeting. He noted that county Public Health Officer Dr. Wilma Wooten had acknowledged there had not been a single coronavirus case traced to boating.

Edwards is chair of the association's Boating Freedom Committee, formed this year to address the restriction. The committee has worked with the San Diego Port Tenants Association to create safety protocol that recreational boaters would follow if allowed to sail with non-household members.

The protocols would be distributed and posted on docks and would call for a person in charge of a boat to log the names of all occupants, check people's health and require masks, Edwards said.

After hearing several people speak on the issue Aug. 4, Supervisor Dianne Jacob agreed the rule did appear to be inconsistent, and she questioned whether the county had the authority to amend it.

A staff member said they would have to check with the state.

After recently submitting the proposed protocols to the state, the county is awaiting a response. As of Friday, the county had not heard back.

Edwards acknowledges that the plight of sailors in yacht clubs may not get much sympathy from many people.

"A lot of us are feeling that's part of the problem, that we're just snooty people, and so what that they can't take their boats out?" he said. "It's way more than that."

Besides the fact that not every member of a yacht club is a millionaire with a super yacht, Edwards said the restriction also affects people who live 25 miles from the shore and bring their boats to launches by trailer for a day of fishing with their buddies.

The association represents various boating organizations and eight main clubs, from the Chula Vista Yacht Club in South Bay to the Oceanside Yacht Club in North County.

Thomas said the 135-year-old San Diego Yacht Club, which once won the America's Cup, has canceled almost all its boat races, as have all other clubs in the county.

"Right now we're doing some sailboat racing, but it's all strictly with people from the same household or (on one-person) Sabots, Lasers and Fins," he said.

Lisa Clements, vice commodore of Silvergate Yacht Club, spoke at the Aug. 4 meeting and told supervisors that the public health order had caused her club to cancel its 60-year-old Wheelchair Regatta, an annual event where large power boats gave 90-minute tours to more than 400 disabled people and their caregivers.

The club also had to cancel its America's Schooner Cup regatta, which each year raised between \$30,000 and \$35,000 for the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, she said.

Oceanside Yacht Club Commodore Mark Mallaby said the restriction has eliminated many races, including the popular Wednesday night twilight series with full crews.

He said the canceled weekly event meant fewer visitors to the clubhouse, meaning fewer people spending money at the restaurant and bar.

"It is frustrating, because there's not a whole lot of logic to it," he said about the rule. "If I wanted to take my friends out sailing, they could get in the car with me and I could take them to the yacht club. I could sit at a table with them and have a drink. I could walk with them to the dock and then sit on the boat with them. But we can't go sailing."

Mallaby, who grew up in Sydney, Australia, has raced sailboats more than 40 years and owns a 35-foot boat that requires a crew. While he can't race from his own club, he has participated in regattas this summer in Orange County, which doesn't have the same restriction.

"We're not out to create a problem, but what we would like is a modicum of fairness and modicum of common sense," he said.

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A PATH FORWARD

Summer of 2020 marked by tragedy at beginning, end

BY STEVEN P. DINKIN

Never has Labor Day been so welcomed. This has been a summer like no other.

I'm not talking about the weirdness resulting from COVID-19, like basketball played in a giant bubble. Or masked walks on the beach. Or drive-in church services.

I'm talking about the violence. The unofficial start of summer — Memorial Day — was marred by the murder in Minneapolis of George Floyd, a Black man, by a White police officer. Floyd's death sparked outrage across the country. Protests erupted in all 50 states, drawing people of all races and ages.

In the weeks that followed, according to the Pew Research Center, as many as 69 percent of us had a conversation about racial inequality.

Corporations joined the conversation, too, pledging support for the Black Lives Matter movement and promising to do a better job with hiring and promotions. Consumer product companies acknowledged the

offensive origins of beloved household brands — like Uncle Ben's rice and Aunt Jemima syrup — and made changes.

Our frayed nerves gave way to a collective hopefulness — that somehow, we were finally on our way to addressing racial injustice.

Then, with Labor Day — the unofficial end of summer — just around the corner, Kenosha, Wis., police officer Rusten Sheskey shot Jacob Blake seven times in the back as Blake tried to evade arrest.

Blake is Black; Sheskey is White. Blake survived the gunfire, but he is paralyzed from the waist down and unlikely to walk again.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar wrote in *The Guardian* about what seems to be a dying ember of hope: that America was finally committed to the simple idea that being Black shouldn't make it more difficult to survive a run-in with police. The basketball legend describes the popularity of the Black Lives Matter movement that swept through America over the last few months as a small but pow-

erful sun. However, in the wake of Blake's shooting, Abdul-Jabbar says, "The small sun set quickly. The dying ember had been extinguished."

Abdul-Jabbar's former team, the Milwaukee Bucks, boycotted Game 5 of the NBA playoffs to protest the fact that the Wisconsin state Legislature was slow to react to racial injustice in the state. Other NBA teams followed suit. In Major League Baseball, three games were canceled, led by the Milwaukee Brewers.

Perhaps the ember of hope has miraculously flickered back.

Still, we have a long way to go. The twin tragedies of the fates that befell George Floyd and Jacob Blake are the bookends of the ghastly summer of 2020. We must do better. It starts with the uncomfortable conversations so many of us are already having. But it continues with a commitment to move beyond words and take action.

The desire to act was evident on a recent August night. More than 8,000 people — from 15 countries on

six continents — joined the San Diego-based National Conflict Resolution Center for a virtual conversation about systemic racism. The event featured New York Times bestselling authors Robin DiAngelo and Ibram X. Kendi, and it was moderated by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Wesley Lowery.

Both authors believe that each of us can play a role in achieving an antiracist society. In his book "How to Be an Antiracist," Kendi defines an antiracist as "one who is supporting an antiracist policy through their actions or expressing an antiracist idea." Simply declaring "I am not a racist" is not enough. Action is required. In fact, Kendi views inaction as inherently racist because it preserves the status quo.

DiAngelo, the author of "White Fragility," frames it this way: Unless you interrupt racism, you collude with it. If you recognize a disparity in an institution or policy, she says, chances are that an organization is already fighting it. You can join that fight, offering your

time, expertise or financial support.

L.A. Clippers coach Doc Rivers recently said in a heartfelt speech, "It's amazing to me why we (Black Americans) keep loving this country and the country doesn't love us back. You don't need to be Black to be outraged. You need to be American."

He's right. All Americans should be outraged. We need to come together and find solutions. We need to talk openly, rationally and respectfully — with curiosity and humility. We need to move beyond unquestioned ideas and think critically. We need to engage and strive for empathy. And we need to share the love.

Those are the lessons of this summer. And, if we take them to heart, we can stop seeing the last few months as a curse and come to accept them as a gift.

Dinkin is president of the National Conflict Resolution Center, a San Diego-based group working to create solutions to challenging issues, including intolerance and incivility. To learn about NCRC's programming, visit ncrconline.com

CAFE
Live music included in September Nights events

FROM B1

The upcoming September Nights events include dinner from Cori Trattoria on Sept. 10, MAKE Cafe lunch on Sept. 12, and Tribute Pizza and the Rose Wine Bar on Sept. 12.

All the events will feature live music and require reservations on ircmake.org/pop-on-30th. Pop on 30th sits in the middle of the MAKE's urban farm, where it runs its job readiness program, Youth FarmWorks and Cafe. Nearby is St. Luke's Episcopal Church, where MAKE operates its job training cooking and catering program called Project CHOP.

IRC's MAKE Projects serve refugee, immigrant and low-income residents in San Diego. The farming and cafe program is geared toward providing teens ages 16 and older with work experience and skills that can be applied in school, such as public speaking and confidence. Students earn a \$300 stipend.

Project CHOP serves refugee women, mostly mothers, who want work experience while improving their English. Participants work 16 hours a week and are paid \$13 to \$15 an hour.

Produce from the farm is used in the cafe, which serves food prepared by the CHOP participants.

APPRAISAL

FROM B1

worth \$15 million and a 2016 appraisal for the former owners that said the building was worth up to \$22 million, including \$11 million worth of skydiving equipment and other furnishings.

Faulconer included the specific location of the proposed facility in his speech.

"I've decided on a downtown location at 14th and Imperial," he told the audience inside the Balboa Theater on Jan. 11, 2018. "I'm excited to say that we are ahead of schedule — and the housing navigation center will open this year."

Before escrow closed in 2018, the Mayor's Office told the Union-Tribune that no updated appraisal was needed because the broker's opinion from 2017 and a 2016 appraisal confirmed that the \$7 million purchase price was a good deal for taxpayers.

The sale was approved by the council three weeks later and escrow closed early that February.

The Mayor's Office said Friday that Faulconer was no longer willing to wait to address the city's homelessness problem.

"As the mayor said in his 2018 speech, the days of pursuing consensus and getting nothing done on homelessness are over and swift action would be taken," mayoral aide Keely Halsey said in a statement.

The "housing navigation center," which helps homeless people enroll in social service programs, was opened in the building late



ARIANA DREHSLER

Roda Suleiman brings breakfast to customers seated in the outdoor space at the MAKE Cafe in North Park.

Mei said keeping the space busy with the restaurant events and cafe helps give participants real world experience in fast-paced situations, but in a setting where they can fail and turn it into a teachable moment.

"We are really trying to help people who are very vulnerable and are not necessarily ready or able to get a job right away, which is why they come to us," Mei said. "We are an incredibly important space for showing them that they can work and building their confidence to do it."

Roda Suleiman, a refugee from Darfur in western Sudan, is a participant in project CHOP. She arrived in the United States in 2013 with her husband and daughter and moved to City Heights last year. Unlike some of the other participants of CHOP who have little to no work experience, Suleiman used to work as a housekeeper, at a grocery store and a factory.

But this is the first time she feels she is really enjoying the work she does, Suleiman said.

"I like my job," she said, laughing. "I like cooking. I'm

cooking everyday for my home and cooking here, too. We cook different food here. ... American food my boss had to teach me how to cook this kind. Now any kind of food I'm cooking."

About 50 refugees from Somalia, South Sudan, Cambodia, Mexico, Vietnam and Syria participate in MAKE Projects. The programs were recently shortened and cut down in size to protect participants during the pandemic.

Sixteen-year-old Evelyn Arce, a native San Diegan, said she joined the program

because she wanted to earn money and gain skills that will help her get a job in the future. She's interested in pursuing a career as a dietitian, so getting work experience on the farm and learning about healthy food is helpful.

"Apart from the farm work, I've learned how to look for jobs, create a résumé and how to act in an interview," Evelyn said. "Everyone here is really nice and helps you a lot."

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last year — a year and a half later than originally expected.

The new appraisal was performed last month, after the U.S. Housing and Urban Development officials requested an independent review of the property in response to complaints from a former mayoral candidate named Rich Riel.

Riel sought the review after reading about the transaction in the Union-Tribune earlier this year. Federal housing officials were interested because the city used Community Development Block Grants to finance the acquisition.

Mayoral spokesman Craig Gustafson said the new appraisal shows the city paid a fair price for the property.

"The appraisal independently verifies this was an appropriate real estate decision by the city, and those who have questioned the transaction based on nothing but speculation will have to find another reason if they want to stand in the way of taking action on our homeless crisis," he added.

Conducted by the San Diego firm Jones, Roach & Caringella, the 71-page analysis did not evaluate the property as a former indoor skydiving facility. Instead, the appraisers completed the appraisal on the basis of the building being used as office space.

"The good quality construction, elevator-served upper floors, unique atrium design and glass exterior are all features that would attract and support creative office use," they

wrote. "While the open floor areas around the atrium are less functional for traditional office space, an open floor concept is considered functional and desirable for creative office and assembly uses."

The building features a pair of 15-foot-wide wind tunnels that stretch through all three floors. It also includes sales counters, equipment cabinets, foot lockers, classrooms for flight lessons and an industrial kitchen.

Despite the unusual amenities, the appraisal said the "highest and best use" for the property was as an office or similar commercial space. They said the 23,000 square feet of usable floor space would present an attractive option to the right buyer.

Under that scenario, the city paid about \$300 per square foot for the building.

The appraisal included 23 separate assumptions and limiting conditions, including the notion that the property is "readily marketable," meets the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements and that there are "no hidden or unapparent conditions."

"No responsibility is assumed for undisclosed items of record or any unrecorded items that may limit the utility of the property," the appraisal states.

The report also includes five comparison transactions between 2015 and 2017, ranging from \$180 per square foot to \$380 per square foot. The costliest was a 10,500-square-foot office building just north of Little Italy; the lowest cost

was a warehouse just north of Chicano Park.

Riel, a real estate expert who finished sixth out of seven candidates for San Diego mayor in the March primary, said the appraisal does not assuage his concern that city officials acted improperly in purchasing the property which, prior to the city's purchase, had been foreclosed on by financier and political donor David Malcom.

"Another appraiser might reasonably determine that the highest and best use for 1401 is not 'adaptive reuse for commercial office or similar use,'" Riel said. "Another appraiser might reasonably state the value in the property is in the land and discount the structure for functional obsolescence, resulting in a lower value."

George Mullen, another real estate professional who two years ago criticized the city's purchase of the former skydiving center, also was less than satisfied with the new property valuation.

"Why didn't the mayor just lease this space, or another space for that matter?" he asked. "With no one else looking to buy this one-use building in 2018, why did the mayor rush to purchase it without even an independent appraisal to verify it's true value?"

It is not clear whether the newly completed appraisal will close the federal investigation. The HUD investigators spearheading the review did not respond to a request for comment.

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TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Sunday, Sept. 6, the 250th day of 2020. There are 116 days left in the year.

Today's highlights

On Sept. 6, 1997, a public funeral was held for Princess Diana at Westminster Abbey in London, six days after her death in a car crash in Paris. In Calcutta, India, weeping masses gathered to pay homage to Mother Teresa, who had died the day before at age 87.

On this date

In 1901, President William McKinley was shot and mortally wounded by anarchist Leon Czolgosz at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, N.Y. (McKinley died eight days later; Czolgosz was executed on Oct. 29.)

In 1995, Baltimore Orioles shortstop Cal Ripken broke Lou Gehrig's record by playing his two-thousand-131st consecutive game.

Today's birthdays

Comedian JoAnne Worley is 85. Rock singer-musician Roger Waters (Pink Floyd) is 77. Actor Swoozie Kurtz is 76. Actor Jane Curtin is 73. Comedian Jeff Foxworthy is 62. Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is 58. Actor Rosie Perez is 56. Actor Naomi Harris is 44.

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