



The San Diego Union-Tribune

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TUESDAY • JUNE 9, 2020



SAM HODGSON U-T

Demonstrators demanding racial justice in the United States take part in a protest Monday in downtown San Diego led by public defenders. Many in the crowd wore T-shirts with the words, "Black lives matter to public defenders."

COUNCIL URGED TO CUT POLICE FUNDING

Thousands of residents have their say in long, contentious meeting

BY DAVID GARRICK

More than 4,400 San Diego residents flooded City Hall with phone calls and emails Monday demanding the city reduce police funding and redirect the money toward rent relief, mental health and boosting the local minority community.

Many residents also expressed support for City Council member Monica Montgomery's proposal to create a new city Office on Race and Equity, which has received bipartisan support, including from Republican Mayor Kevin Faulconer.

The demands from the community came during a public hearing on the new city budget that lasted more than 10 hours Monday because of the extraordinary number of people offering public testimony.

The City Council had not yet voted on the proposed budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1 at press time.

The vast majority of the more than 400 callers into the City Council meeting — and the more than 4,000 people who sent emails — demanded that the city reduce funding for police, echoing calls across the nation for cities to shift priorities in the wake of protests over police misconduct.

"Defund this city-sanctioned SEE COUNCIL • A7

LAWYERS, MED STUDENTS AND SURFERS JOIN PROTEST

Downtown marchers, paddle-out in La Jolla call for end to racial injustice, police brutality

BY TERI FIGUEROA & DAVID HERNANDEZ

Public defenders. Medical students. Surfers. Across San Diego Monday, some marched, some spoke out, some paddled out, and all for the same reason: to confront and call for an end to the scourge of police brutality and racial injustice in America.

Monday marked two weeks since George Floyd died after a Minneapolis police officer knelt on Floyd's neck for nearly nine minutes. Video of the incident sparked

outrage and protests across the country and in San Diego County, decrying racism and police brutality.

In downtown San Diego, some 200 public defenders marched down Broadway. On the UC San Diego campus in La Jolla, 200 or more medical students gathered in a campus quad.

In both places, participants took a knee for eight minutes and 46 seconds — the amount of time Floyd was under the officer's knee, despite saying he could not breathe.

And at Windansea Beach in La

MORE COVERAGE INSIDE

■ A3 • Thousands pay their respects to George Floyd in Houston.

■ A6 • Salk worker writes email critical of Floyd, Black Lives Matter.

■ C1 • Local contractor groups to boost opportunities for blacks.

Jolla, the early evening brought out scores more protesters, including about 75 surfers who took part in a ceremonial paddle-out in Floyd's memory. A woman with a megaphone told the crowd, "Today we

paddle for peace."

'Voice of the voiceless'

Around midday, scores of attorneys marched from the Federal Defenders of San Diego office to the federal courthouse on Broadway. The rally was similar to gatherings of public defenders in California and beyond.

"The police in this country routinely brutalize black people with impunity. For too long, society has looked the other way," said attorney Sarah Peloquin, reading a state-

SEE PROTEST • A7

EXPERTS ADVISE HOW TO DISCUSS UNREST WITH CHILDREN

BY DEBORAH SULLIVAN BRENNAN

If newly home-schooling parents thought teaching reading or math was hard, they now have an even more daunting task: educating their children about racial injustice, and the nationwide protests against the killing of George Floyd.

Nightly news reports and social media feeds have shown images of protesters clashing with police, demonstrators fleeing blasts of tear gas and rioters smashing storefronts. And they've displayed the footage of Floyd dying under the knee of a Minneapolis police officer.

Explaining the matter to children is a delicate task. How do you convey the gravity of the events while helping your children feel safe? What are the root problems behind the unrest, and SEE CHILDREN • A6

DEMOCRATS UNVEIL SWEEPING POLICE REFORM LEGISLATION

Bill seeks to combat excessive use of force, racial discrimination

BY CATIE EDMONDSON

WASHINGTON

Democrats in Congress on Monday unveiled sweeping legislation aimed at combating excessive use of force and racial discrimination by police and making it easier to identify, track and prosecute misconduct, the most expansive federal intervention into law enforcement that lawmakers have proposed in recent memory.

Introduced as a direct response to the recent killings of unarmed black Americans as protests of police violence and racial discrimination continue across the country, the bill proposes significant changes to the rules that govern how police officers operate and how they can be held accountable for wrongdoing.

It comes as tens of thousands of Americans have taken to the streets to call for a nationwide



CAROLINE BREHMAN GETTY IMAGES

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-San Francisco, is joined by other lawmakers as they kneel in silence in tribute to George Floyd in Emancipation Hall at the Capitol Visitor Center.

reckoning with systemic racial discrimination, particularly by law enforcement.

The legislation would curtail protections that shield police officers accused of misconduct from being prosecuted and impose a new set of restrictions on law enforcement officers to prevent

them from using deadly force except as a last resort. It includes many measures that civil rights activists have been pushing for decades, which have met with strong opposition from police unions and law enforcement groups.

SEE CONGRESS • A4

COMMUNITY GROUPS PUSH FOR POLICING CHANGES

Extensive package of city law enforcement proposals faces battle

BY GREG MORAN

A broad collection of community-based groups are proposing a suite of reforms for law enforcement across San Diego that they say address problems with police violence and accountability and redefine the role of policing in communities.

The proposals include adopting an ordinance that would change legal standards for when officers could stop and search someone, then limit an officer to asking the person questions about why they stopped them and not about any other crimes.

The far-reaching reforms have been percolating among criminal justice reform groups for some time but gained momentum after the killing of George Floyd at the hands of police in Minneapolis, and the ensuing nearly two weeks of protest over both his death, police bias and racial injustice.

The push for broad reforms SEE POLICING • A3

U.S. RECESSION OFFICIALLY BEGAN IN FEBRUARY IN THE FACE OF CORONAVIRUS

BY RACHEL SIEGEL

The United States officially fell into recession in February, ending a historic 128-month expansion as the coronavirus swept the country and put the economy into a tailspin.

The Business Cycle Dating Committee, which tracks and dates business cycles for the National Bureau of Economic Re-

search, said the economy peaked just before the pandemic forced business and social activity into a holding pattern. Recessions often refer to two consecutive quarters of contraction, but the calculation includes other factors, such as domestic production and employment.

"The time that it takes for the economy to return to its previous peak level of activity or its previous

trend path may be quite extended," the committee's report said.

States and communities began issuing stay-at-home orders in mid-March to stem the spread of the virus. The moves prevented an estimated 60 million coronavirus infections in the United States, according to a study published Monday, but came at great cost to the economy.

More than 40 million Americans lost their jobs in the coronavirus recession as consumers stayed out of shopping malls, restaurants, theaters and other places where crowds gather. Travel, tourism, retail and other industries were devastated, tipping such well-known brands as J. Crew, Neiman Marcus and Hertz into bankruptcy.

And though the nation's unem-

ployment rate dropped to 13.3 percent in May, versus 14.7 percent in April, the reading comes with an asterisk. The Bureau of Labor Statistics said it had misclassified data in May, April and March. Without the error, the unemployment rate would have been 16.3 percent for May and 19.7 percent for April, the agency said.

Now, as states gradually ease SEE RECESSION • A8



HEALTH

HIDDEN HEART ATTACK

New Yorker's story is valuable lesson to stay on guard for symptoms during COVID-19 scare. E1

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UNREST IN AMERICA

SALK EMPLOYEE CRITICIZES BLACK LIVES MATTER

Email proclaiming 'Good lives matter' creates an uproar

BY GARY ROBBINS

A computer programmer at the Salk Institute in La Jolla has sparked an uproar by using the center's email system to criticize the Black Lives Matter movement and George Floyd.

Bob Kuczewski, 63, who has worked at the elite biomedical research institute for about eight years, sent an email to the Salk community on June 2 that says, in part, "At the risk of losing a job

that I love very much ... Black lives matter? White lives matter? All lives matter?"

"How about ... Good lives matter ... most."

"The notions of good and bad are being undermined by the superficial colors of black and white. Rodney King was not a particularly good man. From what I have read, George Floyd was also not a particularly good man. Certainly Derek Chauvin is not a very good man either. Their skin color doesn't matter."

Chauvin is the Minneapolis police officer charged with second-degree murder in the death of Floyd.

The message quickly spread to social media, where Kuczewski's words drew criticism from scientists, including Rusty Gage, president of the Salk.

He said Kuczewski's email was inflammatory and some people regarded it as racist.

"I want to be very clear that the remarks included in the email in question do not reflect the values or position of the Salk Institute," Gage said in a public statement on Wednesday.

Gage said that subsequent emails were shifted to Slack, a conversation platform that is widely used by companies.

Kuczewski was still employed by the institute on Monday, but Salk has the authority to take disciplinary action.

Kuczewski confirmed to the Union-Tribune on Monday that he sent the email. But he declined to comment further.

He works as a programmer in the laboratory of Terry Sejnowski, one of the nation's most highly regarded computational neurobiologists.

Sejnowski could not be reached for comment.

Kuczewski is a political activist who has appeared before the San Diego City Council many times.

In 2017, he urged the council not to join a legal battle that sought to prevent the Trump administration from preventing refugees from seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States. He also talks about policing and social-justice issues on US Hawks, a hang gliding website.

In his email to the Salk community, Kuczewski objected to the title Black Lives Matter. "It's not about black and white. It's about good and bad. That's what matters and that's what we should hold up as our ideals. The deification of people based on the color of their skin is extremely flawed and does not

lead us to a better society.

"Holding people accountable for being better human beings ... does."

Salk neurobiologist Ed Calloway responded on Twitter. "The remarks in the email are repulsive and contrary to the values of the Salk Institute."

Megan Kirchgessner, a graduate student in Calloway's lab, also spoke up on Twitter. "Hey, @salkinstitute, when an email this toxic gets sent out to the whole institute, asking people to kindly take their conversations elsewhere is NOT an appropriate response."

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CHILDREN

FROM A1

what can kids do to help?

Experts note that the approach should differ by age group, but say one important step is to connect the issues to children's home, their family, and their own beliefs and behavior.

Kenya Taylor, a black licensed marriage and family therapist, and former candidate for San Diego County supervisor, said parents should engage children in open-ended questions about what they have seen and observed. White parents can ask their children what they know about racism, and how they think they can oppose it.

For instance, she said, ask: Why does it happen? What could they do, so they don't display racist behavior? What can they do to make sure they're not being part of the problem, but part of the solution? What can they do to make sure they're not discriminating against anybody?

Steven Dinkin, president of the National Conflict Resolution Center, said parents should listen to their children's thoughts and concerns first, instead of starting with their own. That approach is key for children of any ethnicity, who may have shared concerns about fairness and safety, or specific concerns about their own community and interactions with law enforcement.

"Rather than giving the child a lecture, it's better to create a space, through a series of questions, through active listening ... for the child to feel protected and express their feelings," he said. "Some children may have concerns about the African-American community, the state of police, and what's happening in their community. They may have concerns about their own safety."

Children's understanding of events they've seen on media or in their communities varies greatly, depending on their age and developmental level. And so does their grasp of the very con-

cept of race.

"They know that there are color variations, but they don't notice those racial differences until they're about 3 to 5" years old, said Reena B. Patel, a San Diego psychologist and children's book author. Before that, she said, "There are no positive or negative associations associated with race."

As children approach school age, they become more aware of cultural interactions, and may pick up nonverbal cues about racial stereotypes. For instance, she said, a white parent walking on the street next to a black person may subconsciously pull their child closer, or cross the street.

"What ends up happening is as they start to develop these learned behaviors, and it's reinforced," Patel said.

Parents should monitor their own actions to avoid subtly passing along messages that characterize entire groups of people as good or bad.

Taylor cautioned that it may not be appropriate to

talk to very small children about systemic racism, but said parents can discuss discrimination in language that even the youngest kids can understand.

"For young kids, ask how would they describe it, and use their own words," she said. "Some people would say it's sad. Some people would say it's mean. Some people would say they're outraged."

Parents of older children and teens can make those connections at a more sophisticated level, discussing broader social and cultural issues in the context of their family values and faith traditions.

"It's also a great time to talk about what's acceptable in their families, how we should treat people," Taylor said. "For those who are of families of faith, going to scriptures in the Bible, or the Koran, or Torah, going to our ministers. If the kids are involved in sports, their captains or coaches might have suggestions, too."

As news of police killings of black people have made

news, so has "the talk" that black parents have with their children about how to behave in public, particularly around police, to avoid the tripwires of racial stereotypes that could put them in harm's way.

"We have to have these discussions about when an officer approaches you," said Taylor, recalling her conversations with her own children. "Turn your car off. Put your license and insurance out in the open. Ask if you can reach something so you don't get hurt."

She gave specific instructions about how to behave in public to avoid arousing unwarranted suspicion: "Don't go in a store with hands in pockets, so people won't think you're stealing... If you are wearing a hoodie and run to the school, somebody might think you're stealing something or did something bad, so you have to be careful."

While those guidelines are crucial to keep children physically safe during interactions with law enforcement or other authorities, they can also create their own stress, as young people anticipate danger in everyday situations. Taylor said parents can buffer that by maintaining their own composure, despite serious worries.

"As a parent, trying to stay calm myself and self-care is key," she said. "I don't want my kids to sense my fear and frustration."

Children watching protests on television, or closer to home, may feel frightened by the unrest. If their neighborhood is the site of demonstrations, they may see marchers in the street, or hear police helicopters overhead, Patel said. While the noise and images may be scary, she said parents can explain that demonstrations are a way for people to speak up about serious problems.

"When we're talking about protesting, it's really not a bad thing," she suggested. "A protest is voicing something that is unfair and unjust."

Mira Mesa parents Nathan and Kara Yetter, who are white, said they brought their 5-year-old son, Nicolas, to a Black Lives Matter pro-

test Wednesday to help teach him about racism.

Smiling behind his mask, Nicolas carried a sign that said: "#BLACKLIVESMATTER: We are with YOU."

Nicolas' parents said it's important to talk to their son early about systemic racism and police brutality, and to speak as honestly and openly as they can, without downplaying it.

"There's never a really age-appropriate time to talk about killing someone else," said Nicolas' mom, Kara Yetter.

For teens of any ethnicity who are participating in demonstrations, parents can guide them on how to most effectively make their voice heard, while remaining safe, Dinkin said. And they can help them see alternate perspectives.

"I think youth sometimes have a tendency to see the situation from one perspective or another, to say that one side is looting, or there's violence by police," Dinkin said. "I think it's really important for parents to check their own bias. Humans are very complex. Not all of the people who are protesting are looting, just like not all of the people who are protecting society are using violence inappropriately."

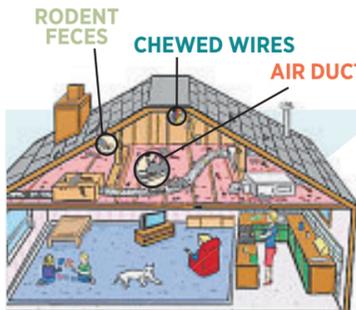
Parents and children can also learn to address issues of racism through free bystander training that the National Conflict Resolution Center offers, to help observers step in to defuse conflicts in the community or workplace.

Most important, Taylor said, parents can provide love and security to guide their children through some of the most chaotic months that many of them have ever experienced.

"With love, encouragement, creating a positive and safe environment, kids will thrive," she said. "It's important for families to know, maybe the start of 2020 was rough, but maybe we can finish the year better. Let's love your neighbor, let's be supportive of people who are different from us, let's celebrate diversity. ... There are so many things we can do to uplift one another."

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