From:	Laura Blake
To:	Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject:	Systemic racism in Missoula, concerns about LEARN
Date:	Monday, July 6, 2020 10:58:20 AM

Dear Missoula City Council,

My name is Laura Blake, and I am a Missoula resident living in Ward 2.

I am writing to share my concerns about the City Council's approach to dismantling racism in Missoula and to amplify the voices of BIPOC community leaders.

1) I am troubled that the City Council is choosing to devote time, energy and resources to forming a listening committee on racism in Missoula. BIPOC residents and leaders have **already** made their experiences and demands clear: namely, investing in social services, affordable housing, harm reduction, health care and programs that help people who are struggling instead of investing in policing. Listen to their voices, and compensate their work.

2) I want to know how city government is participating in antiracism daily. What actions is the City Council taking to address white supremacy in our government and city?

3) I want to know why the City Council did not speak out immediately, clearly and unequivocally against armed white supremacist militias intimidating BLM protesters and harassing Missoulians of color for more than a full week in June. City leaders need to address the assault that took place at the Courthouse and examine the role of both "militias" and police in this attack. The next time armed white supremacists try to occupy downtown, how will our city leadership respond? How do they plan to affirm the safety and rights of their BIPOC constituents?

Thank you for your time,

Laura Blake
Ward 2