



**CITY OF DALY CITY**  
**PRESS RELEASE – June 18, 2020**

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Daly City, CA 94015

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***City Council of Daly City Holds Community Forum – Navigating Tense Times: A Community Discussion – and Announces Chokehold Ban***

Daly City – The City Council of Daly City held a special Study Session – *Navigating Tense Times: A Community Discussion* – on Wednesday, June 17, 2020, after receiving correspondence from hundreds of individuals requesting policy changes after the homicide of George Floyd in Minneapolis. The City Council invited community members to join the Study Session to discuss the Black Lives Matter movement, racism in society and the Police Department’s use of force policy. Many of the participants were community leaders representing school boards, commissions, congregations, youth organizations and nonprofits.

Mayor Glenn Sylvester called for the Study Session and said, “I’d like to thank my fellow colleagues on the Council and also from the public for wanting this sort of forum – I think this is the first of many to come, so we can gauge and get an idea about our community’s concerns. We are here to try to be productive and work out the issues.” The City will be offering future forums (dates forthcoming) to provide the platform for community members to express their thoughts about complicated topics. Mayor Sylvester committed to addressing the many questions that came up in the Study Session during future community meetings.

During introductory remarks, Vice Mayor Manalo noted that she has resided in Daly City since she was 8 years old and is humbled to serve the community she was raised in. “We are giving the opportunity to residents and community members to speak about the Black Lives Matter movement and their concerns and ways for us to affect change within the communities we all live and work in. We are at a critical juncture and point in history where too many lives have been taken, too many black lives have been taken,” said Manalo.

Councilmember Ray Buenaventura reiterated the importance of community forums. “It is vitally important that you express yourselves because we need to be informed. We need to get the consensus of what the community wants and needs and factor that into our decision-making process. I’m also an attorney, a public defender. I am very interested in criminal justice reform, immigration reform and civil rights. I’ve been a public defender for over 25 years, so this is a matter that I really take to heart,” said Buenaventura.

Councilmember Dr. Rod Daus-Magbual, who has been an ethnic studies educator for the past two decades, shared his perspective on the way forward. “Racism didn’t just start now. It was started in the establishment of the United States, the colonization of indigenous people, the slavery of African people to come to our country and the continued ideological oppression that still otherizes different people...This thing is not just an action of police brutality, it’s an institutional and ideological problem, a systemic problem. That’s the reason why I ran to become a City Council member. I truly believe that if we want true liberation it starts with the personal, it starts with the local, and hopefully we change this globally,” said Daus-Magbual.

Councilmember Pamela DiGiovanni shared her thoughts on the nationwide conversation around racism and the importance of working together. “I know that people are grieving. I’d first like to acknowledge George Floyd, who I hope is looking down, which I’m sure he is, and knows that this will not go unheard...We need to continue this, this is a movement. And Martin Luther King’s dream is still alive and we will get there, we will get there together, and that’s why your voices tonight is a beginning,” said DiGiovanni.

Daly City’s community has been vocal about the Black Lives Matter movement. Earlier in the month, a peaceful protest led by youth ended on the steps of City Hall. “I was deeply inspired by Jorden Hill, president of the Black Student Union, who led a protest from Jefferson High School to City Hall. Seeing that empowerment and seeing him as a young black leader speaking his voice and bringing others along with him was truly inspiring,” said Vice Mayor Manalo. Mr. Hill also participated in the City Council Study Session. Another participant, Carolina Parrales, representing local nonprofit, Faith in Action Bay Area, announced an event for Friday, June 19, at City Hall featuring group prayer and solidarity with the Black community. The event date was chosen on Juneteenth, a historic day that honors Black freedom and Black resistance.

The Daly City Police Department was also represented at the Study Session by Police Chief Patrick Hensley and Captain Cameron Christensen. Chief Hensley, who grew up in Daly City and has worked for the Department for the last 26 years, delivered a message to the community. His statement is available on our homepage at [www.dalycity.org](http://www.dalycity.org). “I would like to thank you for the opportunity to talk about our police department’s use of force policy following the senseless and tragic death of Mr. George Floyd in Minneapolis. What we saw on that video hurt me to my core, both as a police officer and a human being. Your police officers feel the same way I do, angry, frustrated, and deeply disturbed. As a police department we continue to have difficult conversations with each other and our community. Police officers understand they have a duty and obligation to protect and serve every member of the community, and we take that oath seriously,” said Chief Hensley.

Captain Christensen presented the Department’s Use of Force policy, available online at <https://bit.ly/DCPDuseofforce>, and details about a transparent, online use of force data dashboard available at [www.dalycity.org/forceanalysisdata](http://www.dalycity.org/forceanalysisdata). The Department first started publishing its use of force data online in 2018 through a partnership with an independent third-party. A year later, it had seen a 23% reduction in use of force, representing 0.1% of the more than 76,000 annual incidents. The Police Department has been proactive in responding to community concerns, and announced it would no longer allow the carotid hold, or chokehold, to be used by Officers. Police Department management is actively discussing three additional recommendations of the 8cantwait.org campaign with representatives of the Police Officers Association.

The Police Department and City leadership are fully committed to working with community members. Dates for additional community forums are forthcoming.

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A video of the Study Session is available on the City’s YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/yWs5LU0unl8>

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