

The Long Beach AGAINST Anti-Blackness Coalition Calls for Justice and Solidarity in Long Beach

At a grassroots press conference during Black History Month, community members will unite to send the powerful message that the welfare of the community is a shared responsibility

Long Beach, CA – January 29, 2025 – A critical call to action is set for **Tuesday, February 4, 2025**, as Black Long Beach area community members, leaders, activists, and a multi-racial alliance of allies come together to demand increased accountability, justice, and safety for the Black Long Beach community. This pivotal gathering underscores a community-driven push for City of Long Beach officials to address systemic inequities and promote racial reconciliation across all sectors of society.

The event, titled "Long Beach Against Anti-Blackness," aims to mobilize residents and officials to tackle the ongoing issue of racial discrimination and retaliation against Black City of Long Beach employees – which has spurred community to come together and demand that the Long Beach City Council, Mayor, and City Manager must address all systemic and community-wide anti-Blackness, by:

1. Ending racial discrimination and retaliation against Black City employees
2. Prioritizing housing, homelessness, and health and safety for Black residents
3. Upholding the City's Racial Reconciliation Plan's promises
4. Embracing and include the Black Long Beach community

Of concern to community members, are issues around rising and violent hate crimes against the Black community, the need for oversight on funding and community inclusion for projects designed to support Black community members including the City's 2020 Racial Reconciliation initiative, increased gun violence and need for economic and health resources in predominately Black neighborhoods, and the need to improve safety measures for students traveling to and from school in Long Beach neighborhoods.

The demonstration is a wake-up call and a plea to local leaders and City officials to uphold and expand Black-centered and life-affirming initiatives. Speakers will share personal stories and experiences related to working for the City, working with programs like Strong Beach and Long Beach Advancing Peace, helping to build the City's Racial Reconciliation Initiative and more. They will call on the City for:

- **INVESTMENT:** Prioritize increased investment in predominantly Black communities to address homelessness, expand access to green spaces, and deliver strong support for Black-owned businesses, fostering long-term growth and equity.-
- **RECONCILIATION:** Develop and execute a definitive plan to implement the 2020 Racial Reconciliation Plan, incorporating community input, allocating financial resources to support programs for Black at-risk youth, and providing quarterly progress updates.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY:** Conduct a thorough investigation into City employees' discrimination cases from the past five years, including holding the HR Department and other department heads accountable, with disciplinary actions for any misconduct.
- **HOUSING:** Address the disproportionate representation of Black individuals in the homeless population by implementing initiatives that provide comprehensive wraparound services and programs focused on supporting the under-housed, preventing them from becoming homeless.

Event Details:

- **Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025
- **Time:** 3:00 pm
- **Location:**
 - City of Long Beach City Hall
 - 411 W Ocean Blvd, Long Beach, CA 90802
 - Parking is free for City Council meeting attendance at the garage at 332 W Broadway.

"Every voice raised in advocacy and every action taken towards justice brings us closer to a more equitable society. We invite everyone from across the city to join us as we call for meaningful change and commit to standing in solidarity with the Black Community," said **Anthony Holmes**, the lead organizer of the demonstration, a City of Long Beach Refuse Department employee who frequently speaks about the unaddressed systemic racism and discrimination faced by his colleagues at City Council meetings.

How Community Members Can Help:

- **Attend the Rally:** Show your support and stand with the community on Tuesday, February 4th at Long Beach City Hall at 411 W Ocean Blvd, Long Beach, CA 90802 at 3pm.
- **Share your story** at the City Council meeting during Public Comment at 5pm. Speakers can get a speaker's card from the City Clerk starting at 4pm. First come, first served.
- **Spread the Word:** Share this message in your network to amplify a collective, unified voice.

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