

**Lisa Vierling**

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**From:** Maximilian Locher <mglocher@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 29, 2020 2:25 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** The Diversity & Inclusion Initiative  
**Attachments:** Racial Unity.docx

*"Know ye not why We created you all from the same dust? That no one should exalt himself over the other. Ponder at all times in your hearts how ye were created. Since We have created you all from the same substance it is incumbent on you to be even as one soul, to walk with the same feet, eat with the same mouth and dwell in the same land, that from your inmost being, by your deeds and actions, the signs of oneness and the essence of detachment may be made manifest."*

- Bahá'u'lláh

Dear Council Members,

'Racism is the most challenging issue confronting America. A nation whose ancestry includes every people on earth, whose motto is *E pluribus unum*, whose ideals of freedom under law have inspired millions throughout the world, cannot continue to harbor prejudice against any racial or ethnic group without betraying itself. Racism is an affront to human dignity, a cause of hatred and division, a disease that devastates society.

Notwithstanding the efforts already expended for its elimination, racism continues to work its evil upon this nation. Progress toward tolerance, mutual respect, and unity has been painfully slow and marked with repeated setbacks. To ignore the problem is to expose the country to physical, moral and spiritual danger.

The oneness of humanity is a spiritual truth abundantly confirmed by science. Recognition of this truth compels the abandonment of all prejudices of race, color, creed, nation, and class--of "everything which enables people to consider themselves superior to others." The principle of the oneness of humankind "is no mere outburst of ignorant emotionalism or an expression of vague and pious hope.... It does not constitute merely the enunciation of an ideal.... It implies and organic change in the structure of present-day society..."

Therefore, The Diversity & Inclusion Initiative should be of the highest consideration. I ask that funding for this initiative be a high priority. I also ask that the leaders of this initiative consult with the citizenry frequently.

Thank you for considering this vital and important work.

Sincerely,

Max Locher and Nancy Murphy