

Recognition of the Supporters of Police Oversight and Eventual Passage of Measure P – The Evelyn Cheatham Effective IOLERO Ordinance

Thank you to everyone of you. You are on this email list because you have had some part in making Measure P possible - whether your work was 20 years ago or 20 days ago; whether you were active for a few months, a few years or a few decades.

There are so many people and groups who brought us to this overwhelming victory for Measure P (66% at this writing!). From those who birthed this movement in the 1990's and brought the California Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights to Sonoma County, to those who compiled the list of names of the dead, to the young people who led the first protests – facing down guns - against the killing of Andy Lopez, to those who went into the Supervisors Chamber to make sure they would "do something," to those who were unmercifully harassed by law enforcement for their activism, to those who served on the CALLE Task Force, to those who attended more meetings than they ever dreamed possible, to the directors of IOLERO, to the members of the Community Advisory Council, to those who organized protests, street theater and discussions, to those who wrote letters and articles, recited poems and sang songs, to those who reported, to those who published, to those who fought for and designed Andy's Unity Park, to those who continue to organize memorials for Andy and celebrations of his life, to those who spoke out, to those who called in, to those who helped get rid of Sheriff Freitas, to those who worked and voted for a different kind of sheriff, to those who envisioned a ballot initiative to strengthen IOLERO, to those who collected petition signatures, to those who took to the streets after George Floyd was killed, to those who insisted that the supervisors put the Evelyn Cheatham Effective IOLERO Ordinance on the ballot, to the Sonoma County Supervisors for doing it, to those who worked on the campaign by walking, texting, calling, donating, fundraising, organizing, to those who endorsed, to those who voted YES! It took every one of those efforts and people to make today possible. Whether we had won or lost, it was a mighty and righteous effort. And despite having won, the work will continue because there is always more to do.

This list does not include the names of individuals involved. There are simply too many to mention. You know who you are.

To illustrate the breadth and depth of this movement, here are but a few of the groups that helped:

PACH – Police Accountability and Community Helpline

Andy's Youth

Justice Coalition for Andy Lopez

Police Brutality Coalition

North Bay Organizing Project

SCCOOP – Sonoma County Community Oversight of Police

Love and Light

ACLU – American Civil Liberties Union of Sonoma County

H-PEACE

Democratic Party of Sonoma County

Sonoma County Green Party

Uplifting Black Leaders

Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights

Veterans For Peace Sonoma County

Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County

And, of course, we than those who organized without a name.

A special shoutout to KBBF-fm radio for always making their airwaves available and to the Peace Press, the Sonoma County Gazette, The Bohemian and the Sonoma Valley Sun for publishing so much for us.

Groups and individuals work in so many different ways and that variety is important for a successful movement. Some worked behind the scenes and some out front and loud in the streets and everything in between. A multiplicity of tactics is important to appeal to the broadest range of people.

What is most important to understand is that the conversation doesn't even take place without activism. IOLERO and Measure P don't exist without activism.

And, sadly, it does not seem to happen without great loss. We can say Jeremiah Chass or Andy Lopez or Trayvon Martin or Jesse Hamilton or Branch Wroth or George Floyd or Breonna Taylor, but we know it goes back much, much further to those who died and inspired the activists more than twenty years ago.

Please let this incredible variety of actions be proof that there is a place for everyone in the world of activism. There is no one way to do this. There is always a place for your way of being in this world.

- Peace & solidarity, Susan Lamont