



February 7, 2020

Pacific Palisades Democratic Club Statement of Admonishment of DA Jackie Lacey

The Pacific Palisades Democratic Club holds elected officials to the highest standards in keeping with our values, which compels us to express concern that Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey's office is losing the trust of the public. Her office's integrity has been eroded by allegations of racial bias, lack of communication, and lack of transparency, and by its having failed to meet meaningfully and publicly with members of the Black community, indigenous communities, and other communities of color.

Lacey has repeatedly refused to take a tougher stance in prosecuting police officers and sheriff's deputies who use deadly force against unarmed civilians, particularly African-Americans and Latinos. Her office has not filed charges against an officer involved in an on-duty shooting in more than 15 years.

Lacey refused to charge Democratic donor Ed Buck in the meth overdose death of Gemmel Moore in 2017; in the absence of prosecutorial action under her watch another man, Timothy Dean, died in Buck's West Hollywood apartment in January 2019. Lacey still has not charged Buck in the overdose deaths of Moore or Dean and has ignored the many victims of Ed Buck — Black, gay men.

Furthermore, voters in her constituency, L.A. County, have repeatedly rejected the death penalty at the ballot box, and California Governor Gavin Newsom issued a moratorium on the death penalty in March of 2019, putting a halt to all executions under his watch. Yet District Attorney Lacey's office has continued to seek the death penalty in capital trials, sending 22 people to death row. Every single one of the 22 was a person of color.

We believe, as Democrats, that we have a moral obligation to speak out on behalf of justice, equality, and transparency. The Pacific Palisades Democratic Club stands in opposition to the death penalty and will always stand with the families of unarmed victims of officer-involved shootings. It is for these reasons that we hereby admonish DA Lacey and her department for their failure to uphold essential standards of accountability and transparency.

The PPDC believes that Lacey's actions, coupled with reports of alleged misconduct, have eroded the public's trust in the DA's office, the District Attorney Department's governmental partners, and this body. We call upon DA Lacey to take immediate actions to restore trust in her department and to meet publicly with members of the Black community, indigenous communities, and communities of color.

Authored by

Lukas Walczak, Member, Pacific Palisades Democratic Club

Jasmyne Cannick, Member, Stonewall Democratic Club

Dr. John Erickson, Legislative Action Chair, Stonewall Democratic Club

The Pacific Palisades Democratic Club P.O. Box 343 Pacific Palisades, CA 90272
310-230-2084 info@palisadesdemclub.org