

From: Erin Spivey <erinisalibrarian@gmail.com>
Sent time: 12/15/2023 12:22:40 PM
To: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Cc: CITY COUNCIL (INCL. CMO STAFF) <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: "Heritage" themes

To the Huntington Beach City Council,

I am yet again writing to express my dismay at your clear attempts to further marginalize minority groups within Huntington Beach and to further your White Christian nationalist agenda.

This latest resolution regarding months of "heritage" themes is a list of talking points straight out of the alt-right handbook, which seeks to replace the diverse history of the United States with a version that highlights only the input of White, Christian men.

Specifically noteworthy is the line included: "This series would be intended to be free of any identity politics and political agendas."

That is clearly not the truth when all of the people identified in the list of Heritage months are only White, Christian men.

These monthly themes erase all of the contributions made by people of color in HB, California, and the United States. These themes also completely erase the important, vibrant Hispanic and Indigenous communities that lived here in Huntington Beach before the US arrived, and continue to live here!

Also particularly noteworthy is the unsubtle attempt to usurp the Library's independence in setting up their own programming schedule recognizing such months as Pride Month, Asian and Pacific Islander American Month, Women's Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, among others.

Will the four far right members of the City Council now prohibit mentioning these groups during their respective months? What consequences will the library face if they don't adhere to the new White Christian nationalist agenda?

These questions are not hyperbolic as their resolutions claims:

"All monthly themes hosted by the City must be included in this approved twelve-month program and will therefore repeal and supersede all such monthly themes/celebrations previously approved by Council."

The far right council members are so out of step with the public on nearly every issue and they continue to push these culture war ideas that are antithetical to the desires of the Huntington Beach populace. These measures continue to drive away businesses and tourists from our community, as well as drive a wider gap between our residents.

As always, the far right four should be ashamed of themselves.

Erin Spivey
Lifelong resident

From: pacj <pacj_03@yahoo.com>
Sent time: 12/20/2023 10:17:53 AM
To: McKeon, Casey <Casey.McKeon@surfcity-hb.org>; Burns, Pat <Pat.Burns@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: "We the people..."

Councilman Burns and Councilman McKeon,

I am perplexed by the history proposal which passed last night and disheartened by the elimination of Black History month from HB's monthly events to acknowledge for 2024. Did you know that on February 28, 1859 the Arkansas legislature "required free blacks to choose between exile and enslavement"? That is part of the reason to acknowledge the history of Black Americans in February.

Why can't we embrace the concepts of the new history proposal and retain the old, like Black history and Women's history?

Councilmen, part of our national history is the struggle for all people to have an equal voice. As Councilman Burns pointed out the national constitution is significant. More significant is the preamble to that constitution, why we were formed in the first place. "We the people of the United States in order to for a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility..."

We were not a perfect union when we started out. Only white landowners could vote. We had slavery. We evolved to form a more perfect union. It wasn't an easy task. We fought to eradicate slavery. Women struggled to get the right to vote. Black history month and women's history month attest to how we historically evolved. Please consider restoring acknowledgement of those struggles to for our "more perfect union."

Thank you,

Pat Quintana

From: Vince <hbsip@yahoo.com>
Sent time: 12/20/2023 04:17:06 PM
To: CITY COUNCIL (INCL. CMO STAFF) <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Black History Month Decision

I am deeply disappointed in many of your recent decisions that have little to do with the real problems facing Huntington Beach. The state senator from Irvine was correct in his recent post. Enough with the attempts at cheap headlines already! It would help if you were working to reduce crime, address the homeless problem, pave our streets, and work on real issues that the people of HB care about.

"State Senator Dave Min (D-Irvine) called the proposal "embarrassing and shameful," in a [statement](#) Monday on X, the social media website formerly known as Twitter. "This is a disgraceful departure from the ideals we should be championing and once again illustrates that this particular HB City Council is more interested in earning cheap headlines than actually addressing the issues affecting the lives of Surf City residents," he wrote.

Vince Sipkovich
Huntington Beach

From: Nunzio Randazzo <nunziorandazzo@gmail.com>
Sent time: 12/20/2023 09:44:27 PM
To: CITY COUNCIL (INCL. CMO STAFF) <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Anyone who voted to nix Black History Month and Women's History Month should resign immediately. The actions of this city council are a disgrace to our city and you do not deserve to represent us. Shame on you. Shame on you.

From: Michael Gioan <digithings00@gmail.com>
Sent time: 12/21/2023 07:39:48 PM
To: CITY COUNCIL (INCL. CMO STAFF) <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Cc: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Subject: Cancellation of Black History Month, Women History Month, and other ethnic celebrations...

Mr. Burns,
Mr. McKeon,
Mr. Strickland,
Ms. Van der Mark,

Shame on you for these decisions! Not that I'm very surprised considering the openly white supremacist fascism you have demonstrated so far, Council Meeting after Council Meeting. Now go celebrate your pathetic white Christmas in the honor of your fake white Jesus.

Councilwoman Bolton,
Councilman Kalmick,
Councilwoman Moser,

Thank you for your continued decency and dedication to HB. You are the only ones deserving of the title of Council Member. Happy Holidays to you and yours.

--

Michael Gioan
562-897-2745 (direct)

From: EdyZS@socal.rr.com
Sent time: 12/18/2023 12:28:41 PM
To: CITY COUNCIL (INCL. CMO STAFF) <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: City council proposals

I am appalled by the actions of the 4 person majority of the city council pushing proposals that most Huntington Beach residents have opposed at Council meetings. It is appalling that these same council members have passed a proposal to restrict library choices. Parents are perfectly capable to deciding what they want their children reading—it is not your place to decide. It is appalling that you propose to restrict voting so that you can continue to push your right wing agenda. It is appalling to restrict the Pride Flag. Such a disservice to our gay and trans community. It is appalling that you repeal the statute that the longest serving member of the council is next in line for Mayor, and put in your most obnoxious council member to push her agenda. Despite a majority of citizens' comments against these policies at council meetings, the 4 of you approve them anyway. I applaud council members, Kalmin, Bolton, and Moser for opposing all of these proposals; you have my support.

From: Dan Jamieson <danjamieson4@gmail.com>
Sent time: 12/19/2023 08:35:10 AM
To: CITY COUNCIL (INCL. CMO STAFF) <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Comment on Monthly Heritage Program, 12-19-23 cc mtg.

Dear HB council:

Please vote NO on the Monthly Heritage Program proposal.

It's unclear why this program is needed. It may be well intended, but it appears to harbor an underlying agenda to end what the council majority feels is too much "identity politics" in existing themes and celebrations undertaken by the city. As such, the proposal would "supersede all such monthly themes/celebrations previously approved by Council." We don't need the city council micromanaging what programs our library or community services department sponsors.

I would respectfully suggest that the council's time and attention would be better spent focusing on the larger issues the council majority ran on. For example, former mayor Strickland and others have rightly pointed out that the county is responsible for dealing with the homelessness problem. The county board of supervisors is still under Republican control, as it has been for many years. Ideally, councilmember Strickland and other Republican members of the council would use their connections with county leaders--and engage with other cities--to ensure the county meets its responsibilities in supporting the unhoused population.

Thank you for your consideration of my suggestions.

Sincerely,

Dan Jamieson

Huntington Beach

From: Paula Schaefer <pas92649@gmail.com>
Sent time: 12/19/2023 08:29:20 AM
To: CITY COUNCIL (INCL. CMO STAFF) <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Fwd: Agenda # 25; 23-1063 JUST SAY NO to history program

Mayor and Council Members:

Just say NO to this preposterous proposal!

How on earth do you envision having a monthly program that addresses the history of the Nation, the State, and the City, that is "... free of any identity politics and political agendas." This statement alone shows the limited knowledge of history by the people who proposed this idea. History is filled with individuals fighting for their individual rights and groups pushing their own agendas and identities and your failure to recognize this shows your lack of understanding of history.

How would you attempt to "honor" the rich heritage of the United States when you eliminate identity politics and political agendas?

- What was the goal of the English who left England, if not folks who decided their identity was not aligned with the Church of England?
- Do you know why certain groups of people formed specific colonies?
- Wasn't it, in part, due to their identification within a specific religious group?

How are you going to "honor" California's lengthy history without discussing identity politics or political agendas?

- California before statehood - hmmm, doesn't this require discussing the land grant process from the countries of Spain and Mexico for land in Alta California? Wouldn't this include identity politics and political agendas?
- How about the massive amount of immigrant labor used in mining, railroad building, farming, ranching, etc.? Doesn't this require discussing identity politics or political agendas?
- How about California's use of natural resources? Do you think the utilization of the State's natural resources can be discussed without addressing the political agendas at play?

Regarding the City's history, why don't you simply request that the City's library, the Huntington Beach Historical Society, and the City's Historic Resource Board work together to create one or two events.

Your requirement that the 12 items you propose MUST be included shows that you are being totally disingenuous that this series will be free of any identity politics and political agendas. If the hypocrisy of your intent wasn't made clear already, your demand that this series repeals and supersedes all "monthly themes/celebrations" that were approved by prior City Councils makes it abundantly so.

Please let history be taught by people with knowledge of history. Please allow the honoring and celebrating of history to be guided by historians and librarians, not your political appointees.

Paula Schaefer, HB resident

From: Blackhistoryparade Application <blackhistoryparadeapplication@gmail.com>
Sent time: 12/20/2023 09:16:19 PM
To: CITY COUNCIL (INCL. CMO STAFF) <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: HB - OC Black History Parade Feb 3, 2024
Attachments: 2024 City Council Letter.pdf Parade App 2024.pdf

Sent from my iPad

From: GERALD G. HENDERSON <gerald.henderson@gmail.com>
Sent time: 12/21/2023 01:16:35 AM
To: CITY COUNCIL (INCL. CMO STAFF) <city.council@sarfcity-hb.org>; nbiesiada@voiceofoc.org; helattar@voiceofoc.org
Subject: IGNORING BLACK AND LBGT CONTRIBUTIONS



GERALD G. HENDERSON <gerald.henderson@gmail.com>
to nbiesiada, helattar

Dec 20, 2023, 8:39 AM (16 hours ago)

What's happening to us here in HB??

Shame on the HB city council. I moved here 35 years ago after vacationing here because HB felt like it was becoming more progressive and friendly. I don't get that feeling anymore. The demographics are changing but these folks want to take us all back in time when it was primarily a red, conservative area.

A certain few men have muscled their way into the political structure and re-introduced archaic ideology of separatism and exclusion and lives on the rest of us, including women, LGBT, and black residents and other minorities. The feeling of inclusiveness is giving way to isolationism and exclusion.

What is happening to us?? The city is losing its moral grip and is selling its soul for money and power. Fortunately, its a short-term moment in history. The city is growing up and away from hate and prejudice and ignorance.

The growing demographics of latinos, blacks, Asians, and middle easterners will soon tell a different story and no amount of laws or amendments or redlining, or district redrawing can change that and God will have the final say!

To show such disrespect this early in your term for those RESIDENTS AND TAX PAYERS who have come here in the last decades, worked hard and strived to be a part of a diverse, progressive community! Shame on you!

Thank God, this is not an authoritarian country or county or even city. So we can vote the NEW Mayor Gracey Van Der Mark, Mayor Tony Strickland, Mayor Pro Tem Pat Burns, and Councilman Casey McKeon (especially you, Ms. third generation, who doesn't want your ideology or the city to change or be inclusive.) out when there terms are up.

Thank you,

G



To Defy Fate, Embrace the Journey...

Gerald G. Henderson
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From: Carol Daus <caroldaus@gmail.com>
Sent time: 12/14/2023 10:57:38 PM
To: CITY COUNCIL (INCL. CMO STAFF) <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: In Opposition to Agenda Item #25-December 19 CC Meeting

Dear City Council Members,

I am opposed to Agenda #25 proposed by Mayor Van Der Mark, Mayor Pro Tem Burns and Council Member McKeon for two main reasons:

- 1) This proposal is a waste of time, money and resources since the city's schools, library, and arts programs already honor and provide awareness about the rich historic heritage of the U.S., State of California, and City of Huntington Beach. We should leave it to educators and professionals to handle these types of programs, not citizen volunteers who have a political agenda. *Plus why are you adding this committee when you recently deleted boards and commissions, citing costs?*
- 2) This proposal does not recognize the diverse range of residents in our city nor the groups that these individuals belong to even though they are also part of the rich historic heritage of the U.S., State of California, and City of Huntington Beach. There's no mention of Black History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, LGBTQ Pride Month, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, etc. Even women are barely given a mention.

It's laughable (if it weren't so mean-spirited) that just 7-9 residents appointed by two council liaisons would develop the curriculum. Residents, non-residents, and tourists can see that this reeks of identity politics and political agendas, which is what you falsely claim you are trying to prevent!

Finally, shame on you for designating "We Love Our Libraries" for August after everything you've done to weaken and wreak havoc within our library system. You can't even get the month right. The HBPL's summer reading program starts in June and **ENDS** in early August. This would be the worst month for that monthly program. Did you even get any input from our librarians?

Sincerely,

Carol Daus

Huntington Beach resident, 28 years

From: Jun, Catherine <catherine.jun@surfcity-hb.org>

Sent time: 12/18/2023 02:45:36 PM

To: Van Der Mark, Gracey <Gracey.VanDerMark@surfcity-hb.org>; Burns, Pat <Pat.Burns@surfcity-hb.org>; McKeon, Casey <Casey.McKeon@surfcity-hb.org>

Subject: Monthly Celebrations

Attachments: Monthly Celebrations.pdf image002.png

Council Members,

A list of monthly celebrations that the City has celebrated is attached. Please consider this the latest version for now. I'm continuing to gather more celebrations from other depts.. and will add them in as I receive them. Thank you.



CATHERINE JUN

Deputy City Manager
City of Huntington Beach

714-536-5579

catherine.jun@surfcity-hb.org

www.huntingtonbeachca.gov
www.surfcitybreak.com

From: Michael McShane <mmcshane@outlook.com>
Sent time: 12/21/2023 03:44:37 PM
To: CITY COUNCIL (INCL. CMO STAFF) <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Monthly heritage, identity celebrations in Huntington Beach will be replaced w

Claiming that an entire race, a gender and sexual orientation is identity politics is abhorrent. Replacing it with the history of oil wells? Really? You remove black history month, woman's history month and pride history for the history of oil wells? Our elected leaders need to lead in a more humane way. You need to do better.

Michael McShane
Huntington Beach, CA
714-803-7125

<https://www.oregister.com/2023/12/20/monthly-heritage-identity-celebrations-in-huntington-beach-will-be-replaced-with-focus-on-citys-history/>

https://www.oregister.com/2023/12/20/monthly-heritage-identity-celebrations-in-huntington-beach-will-be-replaced-with-focus-on-citys-history/?utm_email=64FDF4DD740325B34488D4318D&lctg=64FDF4DD740325B34488D4318D&active=yesD&utm_source=listrak&utm_medium=email&utm_term=Story+Button&utm_campaign=scng-ocr-breaking-news&utm_content=alert

From: Elizabeth SanFilippo <elizabethsanfilippo@fuller.edu>
Sent time: 12/18/2023 07:48:01 PM
To: CITY COUNCIL (INCL. CMO STAFF) <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>; supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Subject: Monthly Program of Historic Heritage -- Oppose

As a resident of Huntington Beach and homeowner for more than 30 years, I am opposed to the proposal to an establish monthly historic heritage program. While I am in favor of celebrating and learning from history, this approach is unnecessary.

The Huntington Beach Historical Society is a respected nonprofit that has offered great programs and events in our city. They have already scheduled the American Revolution event and the Civil War Days in Central Park in 2024. Civil War Days will occur in September, which does not align with your proposed schedule. For more than 30 years, Huntington Beach has had Civil War Days. If we want to promote Huntington Beach history it should be in cooperation with this organization.

Also, our nation has designated certain months to recognize and respect people including Asian American Month, Black History Month, National Hispanic Heritage Month, and Older Americans Month. We need to demonstrate our respect and participate in these observances.

Finally, I am concerned about the cost impact of this unnecessary proposal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Elizabeth San Filippo

From: Jennifer Wilson <jwilly1068@yahoo.com>
Sent time: 12/18/2023 07:21:05 PM
To: CITY COUNCIL (INCL. CMO STAFF) <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: No on 23-1063

I am writing in opposition to the Council item 23-1063. Not that I think you all will read this or care. I don't understand this City Council's obsession with controlling the library (unless its just fear of the well-educated). You've never said a kind word about this amazing system that I and my kids, and thousands of community members, have used for years. Have you ever stepped inside, you new four? What cultural programs have you attended? What book displays have you seen? You all seem to think this city wants what you want, which appears to be uplifting white culture and disallowing any diversity whatsoever, but you clearly are living in your little echo chamber. This city does not need you to plan out a years worth of celebrations. It does a fine job without your overreach and inserting yourself where you don't need to be. The library celebrates everyone, it's inclusive, unlike you four. Leave it alone. Let staff do their jobs (no wonder so many are leaving. You're suffocating them). This item isn't fooling anyone as to what your real intentions are. Your identity politics are showing, as is your racism. Represent everyone, not just your loud minority. Listen to all the people. Leave the books as they are and stop this ridiculous, time-wasting, costly idea. We are sick of how you waste money and make this city the laughing stock of all OC.

From: Erin Spivey <erinislibrarian@gmail.com>
Sent time: 12/15/2023 01:35:04 PM
To: McKeon, Casey <Casey.McKeon@surfcity-hb.org>
Cc: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Subject: Re: "Heritage" themes

Dear Casey,

Thank you for your delightfully disingenuous response. I'm not sure what email you were reading as I never said "a certain version of History". What I did say was that the focus on listed in your "heritage" months only listed "version that highlights only the input of White, Christian men." Is this false? Did I miss the part where you included the input of people of color or people of a variety of faiths? I'm wondering now if your vote to disavow anti-semitism and support the Jewish people was actually heartfelt.

I am always a supporter of learning and education. In fact I hosted several presentations at the Main Street Library on the history of Huntington Beach. I'm surprised you weren't in attendance given your love and appreciation for our city's "heritage." While I was a librarian there I was happy to promote several local writers as well.

To suggest I am opposed to learning, reading, and writing is laughable as one needs merely to look at the history of programming I did for the Huntington Beach Public Library. I'm sorry that we were never able to connect at any of these programs. Do you often attend library programs so that you are aware of what is being hosted in your city?

I also see no mention of holidays in your themes. So does this mean there will be no Christmas programming, no breakfast with Santa, or no lovely tree decorations for 2024? no Halloween programs with trick or treating or pumpkins? How disappointingly out of step with the public!

Thank you again for this response, it was illuminating. I wish you the day you deserve.

Sincerely,

Erin Spivey

On Fri, Dec 15, 2023 at 12:52 PM McKeon, Casey <Casey.McKeon@surfcity-hb.org> wrote:

Thank you for your email Erin.

As an advocate for our Libraries, I'm quite surprised you have an issue with a program that focuses on teaching and learning our City, State and Country's unique history that we all share.

I'm not sure what you mean by a certain version of History. Historical facts and events are well documented and clear. Are you against the encouragement of learning, reading and writing? Is that what you mean by being out of step with the public?

I'm sure you completely read the Agenda item to see that the themes in the months listed are for the calendar year 2024, whereby the committee will then meet, in a collaborative effort with the assistance of the Historic Resources Board, to discuss themes for 2025, which could very well include some of your suggestions below.

In terms of City resources and time, the City already spotlights many themes and events but in a fragmented way. This program will organize and streamline the calendar of events to create efficiency and save resources.

Thank you again for your email and I hope you have a wonderful weekend.

Casey McKeon
City Council Member
City of Huntington Beach
714-536-5553

On Dec 15, 2023, at 12:23 PM, Erin Spivey <erinisalibrarian@gmail.com> wrote:

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Specifically noteworthy is the line included: "This series would be intended to be free of any identity politics and political agendas."

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Will the four far right members of the City Council now prohibit mentioning these groups during their respective months? What consequences will the library face if they don't adhere to the new White Christian nationalist agenda?

These questions are not hyperbolic as their resolutions claims:

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As always, the far right four should be ashamed of themselves.

Erin Spivey
Lifelong resident

From: McKeon, Casey <PRAs@surfcity-hb.org>
Sent time: 12/15/2023 02:35:31 PM
To: Erin Spivey <erinisalibrarian@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: "Heritage" themes

Hi Erin, these are monthly themes and will not interfere with individual programs as you outline below.

Have a great weekend.

Casey McKeon
City Council Member
City of Huntington Beach
714-536-5553

On Dec 15, 2023, at 1:35 PM, Erin Spivey <erinisalibrarian@gmail.com> wrote:

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Erin Spivey
Lifelong resident

From: Erin Spivey <erinislibrarian@gmail.com>
Sent time: 12/15/2023 03:01:19 PM
To: McKeon, Casey <Casey.McKeon@surfcity-hb.org>
Cc: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Subject: Re: "Heritage" themes

Dear Casey,

I am relieved to hear that you don't consider month-long celebrations, such as Advent, to be in contradiction to these monthly "heritage" themes. I am confident the same will apply to all holidays and notable occasions.

Thank you,
Erin

On Fri, Dec 15, 2023 at 2:35 PM McKeon, Casey <Casey.McKeon@surfcity-hb.org> wrote:
Hi Erin, these are monthly themes and will not interfere with individual programs as you outline below.

Have a great weekend.

Casey McKeon
City Council Member
City of Huntington Beach
714-536-5553

On Dec 15, 2023, at 1:35 PM, Erin Spivey <erinislibrarian@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Casey,

Thank you for your delightfully disingenuous response. I'm not sure what email you were reading as I never said "a certain version of History". What I did say was that the focus on listed in your "heritage" months only listed "version that highlights only the input of White, Christian men." Is this false? Did I miss the part where you included the input of people of color or people of a variety of faiths? I'm wondering now if your vote to disavow anti-semitism and support the Jewish people was actually heartfelt.

I am always a supporter of learning and education. In fact I hosted several presentations at the Main Street Library on the history of Huntington Beach. I'm surprised you weren't in attendance given your love and appreciation for our city's "heritage." While I was a librarian there I was happy to promote several local writers as well.

To suggest I am opposed to learning, reading, and writing is laughable as one needs merely to look at the history of programming I did for the Hunting Beach Public Library. I'm sorry that we were never able to connect at any of these programs. Do you often attend library programs so that you are aware of what is being hosted in your city?

I also see no mention of holidays in your themes. So does this mean there will be no Christmas programming, no breakfast with Santa, or no lovely tree decorations for 2024? no Halloween programs with trick or treating or pumpkins? How disappointingly out of step with the public!

Thank you again for this response, it was illuminating. I wish you the day you deserve.

Sincerely,

Erin Spivey

On Fri, Dec 15, 2023 at 12:52 PM McKeon, Casey <Casey.McKeon@surfcity-hb.org> wrote:

Thank you for your email Erin.

As an advocate for our Libraries, I'm quite surprised you have an issue with a program that focuses on teaching and learning our City, State and Country's unique history that we all share.

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Specifically noteworthy is the line included: "This series would be intended to be free of any identity politics and political agendas."

That is clearly not the truth when all of the people identified in the list of Heritage months are only White, Christian men.

These monthly themes erase all of the contributions made by people of color in HB, California, and the United States. These themes also completely erase the important, vibrant Hispanic and Indigenous communities that lived here in Huntington Beach before the US arrived, and continue to live here!

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Erin Spivey
Lifelong resident

From: Burns, Pat <PRAs@surfcity-hb.org>
Sent time: 12/16/2023 11:51:25 AM
To: Erin Spivey <erinisalibrarian@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: "Heritage" themes

Erin, I'm fine with you disagreeing with the measure but why do you have to assume that there is some "Christian Nationalist agenda". That is disrespectful and attacks your message and your intelligence on the foundation of the item. I value input from every walk of life, young/old, racially varied, gender, religion...even "White, Christian men". Your message is discredited by such bigotry. Once we can rid our society of such shameful and hateful attitudes and beliefs, the sooner we can live and work together as productive servants to our community and respect differences of opinions (which I respectfully accept and appreciate). Pat Burns

From: Erin Spivey <erinisalibrarian@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 12:23 PM
To: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Cc: CITY COUNCIL (INCL. CMO STAFF) <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: "Heritage" themes

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Erin Spivey

Lifelong resident

From: Erin Spivey <erinisalibrarian@gmail.com>
Sent time: 12/16/2023 01:35:34 PM
To: Burns, Pat <Pat.Burns@surfcity-hb.org>
Cc: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Subject: Re: "Heritage" themes

Pat! What a surprise to hear from you and for you to use your government issued email to insult my intelligence!

You claim "I'm fine with you disagreeing with the measure" and "differences of opinions (which I respectfully accept and appreciate)" but then also say that my opinion is "disrespectful and attacks your message and your intelligence" and that "Your message is discredited by such bigotry."

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I am deeply saddened that you would resort to name calling and insults rather than address the real concerns of your constituents. I am saddened but not surprised.

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Sincerely,
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Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 12:23 PM
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Cc: CITY COUNCIL (INCL. CMO STAFF) <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: "Heritage" themes

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Lifelong resident

From: Burns, Pat <PRAs@surfcity-hb.org>
Sent time: 12/16/2023 01:46:47 PM
To: Erin Spivey <erinisalibrarian@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: "Heritage" themes

I was not insulting your intelligence and you should not be insecure about it; I felt you were being insulting to your intelligence.... As a Christian myself, I will pray that God opens your eyes and reminds you of your duty to love all of God's children equally and without favor.

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Sent: Saturday, December 16, 2023 1:36 PM
To: Burns, Pat <Pat.Burns@surfcity-hb.org>
Cc: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Subject: Re: "Heritage" themes

Pat! What a surprise to hear from you and for you to use your government issued email to insult my intelligence! You claim "I'm fine with you disagreeing with the measure" and "differences of opinions (which I respectfully accept and appreciate" but then also say that my opinion is "disrespectful and attacks your message and your intelligence" and that "Your message is discredited by such bigotry."

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Lifelong resident

From: Erin Spivey <erinisalibrarian@gmail.com>
Sent time: 12/17/2023 01:28:20 PM
To: Burns, Pat <Pat.Burns@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Re: "Heritage" themes

I believe that's what is referred to as a distinction without a difference.

Have the day you deserve!

Sent from my iphone, please excuse any typos

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To: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org

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Erin Spivey

Lifelong resident

From: McKeon, Casey <PRAs@surfcity-hb.org>
Sent time: 12/15/2023 12:52:21 PM
To: Erin Spivey <erinisalibrarian@gmail.com>
BCc: Burns, Pat <Pat.Burns@surfcity-hb.org>; Van Der Mark, Gracey <Gracey.VanDerMark@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Re: "Heritage" themes

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From: McKeon, Casey <PRAs@surfcity-hb.org>
Sent time: 12/20/2023 11:59:26 AM
To: pacj <pacj_03@yahoo.com>
Cc: Burns, Pat <Pat.Burns@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Re: "We the people..."

Thank you for your email Pat.

Casey McKeon
City Council Member
City of Huntington Beach
714-536-5553

On Dec 20, 2023, at 10:18 AM, pacj <pacj_03@yahoo.com> wrote:

Councilman Burns and Councilman McKeon,
I am perplexed by the history proposal which passed last night and disheartened by the elimination of Black History month from HB's monthly events to acknowledge for 2024. Did you know that on February 28, 1859 the Arkansas legislature "required free blacks to choose between exile and enslavement"? That is part of the reason to acknowledge the history of Black Americans in February.

Why can't we embrace the concepts of the new history proposal and retain the old, like Black history and Women's history?

Councilmen, part of our national history is the struggle for all people to have an equal voice. As Councilman Burns pointed out the national constitution is significant. More significant is the preamble to that constitution, why we were formed in the first place. "We the people of the United States in order to for a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility..."

We were not a perfect union when we started out. Only white landowners could vote. We had slavery. We evolved to form a more perfect union. It wasn't an easy task. We fought to eradicate slavery. Women struggled to get the right to vote. Black history month and women's history month attest to how we historically evolved. Please consider restoring acknowledgement of those struggles to for our "more perfect union."

Thank you,

Pat Quintana

From: Casey.McKeon@surfcity-hb.org
Sent time: 12/20/2023 11:58:55 AM
To: pacj <pacj_03@yahoo.com>
Cc: Burns, Pat <Pat.Burns@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Re: "We the people..."

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Why can't we embrace the concepts of the new history proposal and retain the old, like Black history and Women's history?

Councilmen, part of our national history is the struggle for all people to have an equal voice. As Councilman Burns pointed out the national constitution is significant. More significant is the preamble to that constitution, why we were formed in the first place. "We the people of the United States in order to for a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility..."

We were not a perfect union when we started out. Only white landowners could vote. We had slavery. We evolved to form a more perfect union. It wasn't an easy task. We fought to eradicate slavery. Women struggled to get the right to vote. Black history month and women's history month attest to how we historically evolved. Please consider restoring acknowledgement of those struggles to for our "more perfect union."

Thank you,

Pat Quintana

From: McKeon, Casey <PRAs@surfcity-hb.org>
Sent time: 12/19/2023 10:59:10 AM
To: Paula Schaefer <pas92649@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Agenda # 25; 23-1063 JUST SAY NO to history program

Thank you for your email Paula.

Casey McKeon
City Council Member
City of Huntington Beach
714-536-5553

On Dec 19, 2023, at 8:29 AM, Paula Schaefer <pas92649@gmail.com> wrote:

Mayor and Council Members:

Just say NO to this preposterous proposal!

How on earth do you envision having a monthly program that addresses the history of the Nation, the State, and the City, that is "... free of any identity politics and political agendas." This statement alone shows the limited knowledge of history by the people who proposed this idea. History is filled with individuals fighting for their individual rights and groups pushing their own agendas and identities and your failure to recognize this shows your lack of understanding of history.

How would you attempt to "honor" the rich heritage of the United States when you eliminate identity politics and political agendas?

- What was the goal of the English who left England, if not folks who decided their identity was not aligned with the Church of England?
- Do you know why certain groups of people formed specific colonies?
- Wasn't it, in part, due to their identification within a specific religious group?

How are you going to "honor" California's lengthy history without discussing identity politics or political agendas?

- California before statehood - hmmm, doesn't this require discussing the land grant process from the countries of Spain and Mexico for land in Alta California? Wouldn't this include identity politics and political agendas?
- How about the massive amount of immigrant labor used in mining, railroad building, farming, ranching, etc.? Doesn't this require discussing identity politics or political agendas?
- How about California's use of natural resources? Do you think the utilization of the State's natural resources can be discussed without addressing the political agendas at play?

Regarding the City's history, why don't you simply request that the City's library, the Huntington Beach Historical Society, and the City's Historic Resource Board work together to create one or two events.

Your requirement that the 12 items you propose MUST be included shows that you are being totally disingenuous that this series will be free of any identity politics and political agendas. If the hypocrisy of your intent wasn't made clear already, your demand that this series repeals and supersedes all "monthly themes/celebrations" that were approved by prior City Councils makes it abundantly so.

Please let history be taught by people with knowledge of history. Please allow the honoring and celebrating of history to be guided by historians and librarians, not your political appointees.

From: McKeon, Casey <PRAs@surfcity-hb.org>
Sent time: 12/20/2023 07:00:22 PM
To: Vince <hbsip@yahoo.com>
BCc: Burns, Pat <Pat.Burns@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Re: Black History Month Decision
Attachments: OCR-L-HBCHARTER-0624.12.jpg

Hi Vince, here is a more fair article who's author actually watched our meeting and described the details of the Historic Calendar.



Monthly heritage, identity celebrations in Huntington Beach will be replaced with focus on city's history
ocregister.com

Thank you again for your email.

Casey McKeon
City Council Member
City of Huntington Beach
714-536-5553

On Dec 20, 2023, at 4:17 PM, Vince <hbsip@yahoo.com> wrote:

I am deeply disappointed in many of your recent decisions that have little to do with the real problems facing Huntington Beach. The state senator from Irvine was correct in his recent post. Enough with the attempts at cheap headlines already! It would help if you were working to reduce crime, address the homeless problem, pave our streets, and work on real issues that the people of HB care about.

"State Senator Dave Min (D-Irvine) called the proposal "embarrassing and shameful," in a [statement](#) Monday on X, the social media website formerly known as Twitter. "This is a disgraceful departure from the ideals we should be championing and once again illustrates that this particular HB City Council is more interested in earning cheap headlines than actually addressing the issues affecting the lives of Surf City residents," he wrote.

Vince Sipkovich
Huntington Beach

From: McKeon, Casey <PRAs@surfcity-hb.org>
Sent time: 12/21/2023 07:06:21 AM
To: Nunzio Randazzo <nunziorandazzo@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Hi Nunzio, no spin, just reporting the facts of the meeting on Tuesday regarding the Calendar of Historical Events.

We have meetings every single day regarding addressing our crime, homelessness problem, infrastructure and local economy and we have in one year seen marked improvements.

Have you seen the recent City Council meetings where we discussed and provided updates on these items?

Casey McKeon
City Council Member
City of Huntington Beach
714-536-5553

On Dec 21, 2023, at 6:53 AM, Nunzio Randazzo <nunziorandazzo@gmail.com> wrote:

Hey cool man! Great work attempting to spin this as “not necessarily NOT celebrating Black History Month, Women’s History Month, etc. etc.”, you’ve given yourself a cute little retort for when people correctly determine that you’re just trying to score points in some culture war nobody cares about. The City Council shouldn’t be wasting their time on this crap.

Why don’t we spend our time trying to improve Huntington Beach? Instead of signaling to people they aren’t included and/or welcomed.

If you do go through with this pointless endeavor might I suggest a FUN TOPIC for Huntington Beach?

APRIL - CASEY MCKEON MONTH (a celebration of a condescending City Council Member who just wants people to pay attention to him).

The only good thing about your initiative is there’s nothing that precludes us from NOT celebrating Casey McKeon Month.

On Wed, Dec 20, 2023 at 11:23 PM McKeon, Casey <Casey.McKeon@surfcity-hb.org> wrote:

Hi Nunzio, thank you for your email.

This is quite the unfortunate interpretation of the Calendar of Historically themed events that was discussed last night. As I mentioned last night, nothing precludes events like Black History Month from being celebrated. This calendar will celebrate the rich history of Huntington Beach, California and the USA that we all share.

May I ask where you heard about this as it doesn’t appear that there was a full analysis about what our proposed calendar entails because there is the ability to include themed events like Black History month as we discussed last night.

Please let me know.

Thank you.

Casey McKeon
City Council Member
City of Huntington Beach
714-536-5553

On Dec 20, 2023, at 9:44 PM, Nunzio Randazzo <nunziorandazzo@gmail.com> wrote:

Anyone who voted to nix Black History Month and Women's History Month should resign immediately. The actions of this city council are a disgrace to our city and you do not deserve to represent us. Shame on you. Shame on you.

From: Nunzio Randazzo <nunziorandazzo@gmail.com>
Sent time: 12/21/2023 06:52:53 AM
To: McKeon, Casey <Casey.McKeon@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Re: BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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From: Nunzio Randazzo <nunziorandazzo@gmail.com>
Sent time: 12/21/2023 07:46:28 AM
To: McKeon, Casey <Casey.McKeon@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Re: BLACK HISTORY MONTH

CAN'T WAIT TO VOTE YOU OFF THE CITY COUNCIL CASEY!

Good luck with the job search bud! Maybe Ron DeSantis needs a dog walker or something, who knows!

On Thu, Dec 21, 2023 at 7:06 AM McKeon, Casey <Casey.McKeon@surfcity-hb.org> wrote:

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City of Huntington Beach
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From: McKeon, Casey <PRAs@surfcity-hb.org>
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To: Nunzio Randazzo <nunziorandazzo@gmail.com>
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From: McKeon, Casey <PRAs@surfcity-hb.org>
Sent time: 12/21/2023 08:02:40 AM
To: Nunzio Randazzo <nunziorandazzo@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: BLACK HISTORY MONTH

I hope you have a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday Season with your family Nunzio.

Thank you.

Casey McKeon
City Council Member
City of Huntington Beach
714-536-5553

On Dec 21, 2023, at 7:46 AM, Nunzio Randazzo <nunziorandazzo@gmail.com> wrote:

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From: McKeon, Casey <PRAs@surfcity-hb.org>
Sent time: 12/18/2023 09:10:54 PM
To: EdyZS@socal.rr.com
Subject: Re: City council proposals

Thank you for your email.

Casey McKeon
City Council Member
City of Huntington Beach
714-536-5553

On Dec 18, 2023, at 12:28 PM, EdyZS@socal.rr.com wrote:

I am appalled by the actions of the 4 person majority of the city council pushing proposals that most Huntington Beach residents have opposed at Council meetings. It is appalling that these same council members have passed a proposal to restrict library choices. Parents are perfectly capable to deciding what they want their children reading —it is not your place to decide. It is appalling that you propose to restrict voting so that you can continue to push your right wing agenda. It is appalling to restrict the Pride Flag. Such a disservice to our gay and trans community. It is appalling that you repeal the statute that the longest serving member of the council is next in line for Mayor, and put in your most obnoxious council member to push her agenda. Despite a majority of citizens' comments against these policies at council meetings, the 4 of you approve them anyway. I applaud council members, Kalmin, Bolton, and Moser for opposing all of these proposals; you have my support.

From: McKeon, Casey <PRAs@surfcity-hb.org>
Sent time: 12/20/2023 11:20:54 PM
To: Ryan DeLany <r87delany@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: history themed celebrations

Hi Ryan, thank you for your email.

This is quite the unfortunate interpretation of the Calendar of Historically themed events that was discussed last night. As I mentioned last night, nothing precludes events like Black History Month from being celebrated. This calendar will celebrate the rich history of Huntington Beach, California and the USA that we all share.

May I ask where you heard about this as it doesn't appear that there was a full analysis about what our proposed calendar entails because there is the ability to include themed events like Black History month as we discussed last night.

We have meetings every single day regarding addressing our crime, homelessness problem, infrastructure and local economy and we have in one year seen marked improvements.

Are you available to meet in person to discuss further as there appears to be false information being reported in the press? I can come down to Zacks?

Please know we appreciate all that you do for our community and I welcome the opportunity to speak with you.

Please let me know.

Thanks Ryan.

Casey McKeon
City Council Member
City of Huntington Beach
714-536-5553

On Dec 20, 2023, at 9:18 PM, Ryan DeLany <r87delany@gmail.com> wrote:

To Council-

To those of you that voted to nix certain monthly ethnic celebrations—You are an embarrassment. My family friends and community have been residents and workers within Huntington Beach for well over thirty years now. We own homes, we grew up going to Perry and Smith and Dwyer and Huntington, and we influence city events and groups, as well as youth sports like region 56, 117, and HVLL baseball. We are owners of small businesses like Zacks downtown, we are people that run the Wednesday evening car club, I could go on and on with examples of community reach. We are completely embarrassed and you make a mockery of this city with the shit that you spin your wheels on.

Nixing certain months because of your insecurity and lack of mental bandwidth, I would expect, except I would also expect you to know well enough that you have now brought a great deal of poor attention and bad business as a result, on not only a local scale but national as well. Myself and others couldn't care less about what months are celebrated, so why actively remove certain celebrations and add others? Who asked for this? This is such ignorant culture war shit and now there's a magnifying glass on HB and we will be getting roasted on the national level for being just as incompetent as any other city council. If not worse.

Try fixing stuff that actually matters. No doubt all this will manifest in the next voting season, but lord knows the skulls that sit atop your shoulders may be too thick to grasp the long term negative ramifications and PR this crap brings.

From: GERALD G. HENDERSON <gerald.henderson@gmail.com>
Sent time: 12/21/2023 06:53:15 PM
To: McKeon, Casey <Casey.McKeon@surfcity-hb.org>
Cc: Kevin Celander <KDCelander@gmail.com>; Ken Sweat <kensweat16@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: IGNORING BLACK AND LGBT CONTRIBUTIONS

Hello Mr. McKeon:

Thank you for your giving me the courtesy of a reply. I'm surprised that you are asking where I heard about the city council's snub of Black history month or LGBTs recognition! The article and news of it was plastered all over the Daily Pilot and the local news! Hard to keep that kind of insensitive, cruel decision a secret. Bad news travels fast in a small city like HB. Your team single-handedly has tarnished my vision of the city I have loved so much since taking up residence here back in the mid-90s from back east.

Just read the article. No, Councilman McKeon, I read very well. I was a college student and worked for some very impressive companies in my time here. Never ran into this kind of insult here. Yes, a black man was shot at a McDonalds back in the late 90s, but my city rallied around the situation and we all went through it and have been trying to live peacefully, forgivingly, ever since. And now your council's decision digs up those old wounds and tells other people of color that your history here is not a part of this town. Black history month serves as a reminder to us all that the U.S. which includes HB the last time I looked, has a very rich and 'inclusive' history. Your HB celebration includes no mention of anybody except your ancestors, many of which migrated here just like the rest of us. Very ashamed of this decision and you and the other council members. You have forgotten the American dream. Book burning, Gerrymandering, student harassment, racist graffiti, that is the legacy you are building, taking us back decades to a time when John Wayne worked hard to prevent minorities from even living here (Yes, we heard all about his brand of racial profiling.)

You try to convince us that with this decision that Black History month can still be celebrated, just not announced by our own city as part of it's rich history. You members, CHOSE to be exclusive instead. Otherwise, why did the other three council members resign??? Shame on you. We will get our chance to once again try to remove your self-inflicted stain from history, the way you have done banning books! Only one HIS-story you and the NEW MAYOR, and the others who voted to exclude the rest of us, YOUR OWN!

One day, African Americans and LGBT will, too, have representation in OUR city. It just won't be while 'men' like you sit there and abuse the very trust we thought we were bestowing you all with. Lastly, don't try to tell me we misunderstood the new resolution and calendar you have voted for. Fortunately, we were taught to read about individual and civil rights, empathy, and inclusivity, and love for others from reading certain classics in our library BEFORE you and the other 'council' members we thought we trusted, came along and decided on your BANNING THEM! I would never ban a book you wanted to read. What good would shrinking your knowledge of the world serve anyone??

See you at the ballot box, sir! Oh, and the Civil rights movement taught me that, not Black history month. Maybe someday someone will invite members of the AA community to come to sit at the table, to speak peacefully and, more importantly, to listen to your side and share. That Mr. 'Councilman for ALL the people of HB, is the very definition of 'empathy'...

Lastly, I am a film screenwriter and producer. I have just finished a body of work, a slate of over 30 feature films, TV series, and Broadway musicals. I started the slate shortly after my wife and I moved here from back east and all in the same house that we've owned for 28 of our 30 years here. All in the same tiny room, day after day, night after night, while, also, working in banking and real estate. A labor of love and we've met some very wonderful people here, of all different nationalities. My doctor is Asian, my lawyer is Jewish, our neighbors are wonderful latino and white families. A true melting pot that encourages diversity and respect and welcomes our different heritages. We learn from each other and oftentimes depend on our kindness to one another. They mentioned to me when seeing this article about you and the other councilman that this is not reflective of who they are, who they want to be or whom and what they thought they were voting for. They apologized, which I didn't feel it was on them to do. But they felt a sense of responsibility and respect that I found inspiring and some comfort. They are disappointed. My wife is hurt, quiet, and embarrassed about this article.

I am about to produce my first two projects, one is a movie of inclusion and peace and historical figures of America. I guess most of my films would be banned here if I dared to introduce Capt. Richard Etheridge to you and your clan on the dais. I challenge you to go, (because I know you can't find a book about this great African American who, along with the two white officers who 'dared' to walk alongside of him, discovered the U.S. Coast Guard! That story would surely be banned by this council.

The other project is a musical about Sammy Davis, Jr and his racially charged personal AND professional life. I guess neither project will ever be welcomed here in OUR library, theaters, or premiere at the Segerstrom theater, if OUR councilmen unilaterally have your way!

Your decision to exclude black history is celebrated everywhere my friends said to me. But as your fellow councilman, Mr. Kalmick, made clear in the Daily Pilot article, 'Just not here in Huntington Beach.' You are the very reason that I took up writing. Not to tell HIS-story. But to entertain and teach a welcoming public about a rich history that you, obviously, refuse to even celebrate or-- even recognize!

Yours sadly,
Gerald Henderson
714-841-6695

Oh, and here's the article you asked where I read about. The Mayor and some of your fellow council members, I guess, would have banned this in the library and at schools!

[NEWS](#)

Huntington Beach to add new monthly celebrations, remove others like Black History Month



The Huntington Beach Fourth of July Host Band marches up Main Street during this year's Fourth of July parade. (File Photo)

BY MATT SZABO STAFF WRITER DEC. 20, 2023 4:56 PM PT [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Email](#) [Print](#) [Share](#) [More](#) [options](#)

February's city theme for Huntington Beach will be "We Love Our Libraries" in 2024, while the city will make no mention of Black History Month.

In June, the city theme will be focused on the history of Independence Day, but the city will not be recognizing (LGBTQ+) Pride Month.

The City Council voted 4-3 on Tuesday night to approve a 12-month calendar that will see each month dedicated to a specific theme but would remove other familiar months from the recognition list.

The item, introduced by [Mayor Gracey Van Der Mark](#), [Mayor Pro Tem Pat Burns](#) and [Councilman Casey McKeon](#), states that it is designed to honor the rich historic heritage of the country, state and Surf City itself. Each month's theme will highlight significant events, landmarks and influential figures.

Tony Strickland voted to approve the item, while **Dan Kalmick, Natalie Moser and Rhonda Bolton** all voted “no.”

McKeon said that over the past year, city archivist and historian Kathie Schey has sent him about 20 chronological photos of the history of Huntington Beach that he has hanging in his council office.

“Myself, as a third-generation Huntington Beach resident, I’ve just been amazed to learn how much of our rich history that I was unaware of, and I can only imagine that the majority of our residents are unaware of as well,” McKeon said. “That was essentially the genesis for this calendar of historically themed months ... the monthly celebrations [now] are fragmented, inconsistent and relatively unorganized within the departments.”

(A history the rest of us are not, obviously, a part of.)

But Schey, earlier in the meeting during public comments, said she would be resigning as the chair of the historic resources board and member of the design review board in protest of the item. Another additional seven-to-nine member committee would be created to decide the calendar of events for each year, which she saw as usurping the power of the historic resources board.

“I think it’s a pretty thinly veiled, stinging vote of no-confidence both in my role as a historian and leadership of the historic resources board,” Schey said. **“The members of that board include a history professor, two history authors, two of the great-grandsons of our first mayor ... and this is unfair to them.”**

The item states the committee could be assisted by the historic resources board or city staff, as needed. McKeon said the board was not consulted before the item was put on the agenda, though he did have a conversation with Schey over the weekend.

Monthly themes for 2024, as proposed and amended Tuesday, include celebrating the city’s origins and remembrance of the Holocaust in January, California’s history in March and the history of Huntington Beach’s railroad in April. **But the item also states that any previous monthly themes or celebrations approved by earlier City Councils would be repealed and superseded.**



Non-operational oil wells are pictured in the parking lot of the Huntington Beach Civic Center earlier this year. Under the new policy, October’s theme could be “Black Gold Jubilee: Honoring the Discovery of Oil.” (File Photo)

These federally recognized celebrations include Black History Month, Women’s History Month in March and Pride Month in June, among others. May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, and Hispanic Heritage Month runs from mid-September to mid-October.

The item states that the new Huntington Beach celebrations are intended to be “free of any identity politics and political agendas.”

Kalmick questioned both the item itself and why the previously approved celebrations need to be disregarded.

“This is not public policy,” he said. “This is an Eagle Scout project. This is what we all learned in fourth grade and 10th grade and 11th grade. I do apologize if you didn’t know some of these things; a lot of folks in town do ... So, February of 2024 we’re not going to celebrate Black History Month. Why not?”

McKeon said the previous themed months could be added back in future years.

“This is meant to be a fun exercise that brings the community together,” he said. “You’re totally over-complicating it.” Really?? Overcomplicating exclusion??

Moser, who has a bachelor’s degree in history from Cal State Long Beach, said that presenting a comprehensive historical narrative is complex, and she cautioned against over-simplification or inadvertent sanitizing of the past.

“I love history and I want us to know more about history, [but] our immediate role as council members is to prioritize the needs of the community that directly impact them,” she said.

Don Han is the director of community partnerships for Groundswell, formerly known as OC Human Relations. He said he had been working to support the Huntington Beach Human Relations Task Force/Committee, which the council voted to ax over the summer, since 2005.

“It is kind of disheartening to see that the nationally recognized heritage months are being removed from the city of Huntington Beach.” Han said Wednesday. **“The history of Huntington Beach is the history of these people. If Huntington Beach wants to continue to celebrate its diversity, it has to embrace and be inclusive of all people, so that they feel that they belong. Removing the Black History Month celebration, imagine if you identify as a Black person in that community, to see your city’s elected officials say, ‘We’re not going to recognize you and your history.’ That can be disheartening.”**

State Sen. Dave Min also released a statement that was highly critical of the item.

Burns said that the federally recognized months were already well known and being celebrated.

“Just not in Huntington Beach.” Kalmick cut in.

Thank you,

G

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On Thu, Dec 21, 2023 at 6:51 AM Casey McKeon, Casey <Casey.McKeon@surfcity-hb.org> wrote:
Gerald, thank you for your email.

This is quite the unfortunate interpretation of the Calendar of Historically themed events that was discussed last night. As I mentioned last night, nothing precludes events like Black History Month from being celebrated. This calendar will celebrate the rich history of Huntington Beach, California and the USA that we all share.

May I ask where you heard about this as it doesn't appear that there was a full analysis about what our proposed calendar entails because there is the ability to include themed events like Black History month as we discussed last night.

Please let me know.

Thank you.
Casey McKeon
City Council Member
City of Huntington Beach
714-536-5553

On Dec 21, 2023, at 1:16 AM, GERALD G. HENDERSON <gerald.henderson@gmail.com> wrote:



GERALD G. HENDERSON <gerald.henderson@gmail.com>
to nbieslada, helattar

Dec 20, 2023, 8:39 AM (16 hours ago)

What's happening to us here in HB??

Shame on the HB city council. I moved here 35 years ago after vacationing here because HB felt like it was becoming more progressive and friendly. I don't get that feeling anymore. The demographics are changing but these folks want to take us all back in time when it was primarily a red, conservative area.

A certain few men have muscled their way into the political structure and re-introduced archaic ideology of separatism and exclusion and lives on the rest of us, including women, LGBT, and black residents and other minorities. The feeling of inclusiveness is giving way to isolationism and exclusion.

What is happening to us?? The city is losing its moral grip and is selling its soul for money and power. Fortunately, its a short-term moment in history. The city is growing up and away from hate and prejudice and ignorance.

The growing demographics of latinos, blacks, Asians, and middle easterners will soon tell a different story and no amount of laws or amendments or redlining, or district redrawing can change that and God will have the final say!

To show such disrespect this early in your term for those RESIDENTS AND TAX PAYERS who have come here in the last decades, worked hard and strived to be a part of a diverse, progressive community! Shame on you!

Thank God, this is not an authoritarian country or county or even city. So we can vote the NEW Mayor Gracey Van Der Mark, Mayor Tony Strickland, Mayor Pro Tem Pat Burns, and Councilman Casey McKeon (especially you, Ms. third generation, who doesn't want your ideology or the city to change or be inclusive.) out when there terms are up.

Thank you,

G



Gerald G. Henderson
CEO, Managing Partner
Mary Alice Entertainment and Media, LLC
Huntington Beach, CA 92647
714-841-6695
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maryaliceapparel.com
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From: McKeon, Casey <PRA@suffcity-hb.org>
Sent time: 12/21/2023 06:51:36 AM
To: GERALD G. HENDERSON <gerald.henderson@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: IGNORING BLACK AND LBGT CONTRIBUTIONS

Gerald, thank you for your email.

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To Dely Fate, Embrace the Journey...

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From: McKeon, Casey <PRAs@surfcity-hb.org>
Sent time: 12/15/2023 08:03:01 AM
To: Carol Daus <caroldaus@gmail.com>
Cc: Burns, Pat <Pat.Burns@surfcity-hb.org>; Van Der Mark, Gracey <Gracey.VanDerMark@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Re: In Opposition to Agenda Item #25-December 19 CC Meeting

Hi Carol, thank you again for your kind emails.

As a volunteer at our Libraries, I'm quite surprised you have an issue with a program that focuses on teaching and learning our City, State and Country's unique history that we all share.

I'm sure you completely read the Agenda item to see that the themes in the months listed are for the calendar year 2024, whereby the committee will then meet to discuss themes for 2025, which could very well include some of your suggestions below.

I'm also not sure how focusing on our City, State and Country's history is identity politics. If that is the case, I'm going to contact our School Boards right away to let them know.

In terms of City resources and time, the City already spotlights many themes and events but in a fragmented way. This program will organize and streamline the calendar of events to create efficiency and save resources.

Thank you again for your email and I hope you have a wonderful weekend.

Bless your heart.

Casey McKeon
City Council Member
City of Huntington Beach
714-536-5553

On Dec 14, 2023, at 10:57 PM, Carol Daus <caroldaus@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear City Council Members,

I am opposed to Agenda #25 proposed by Mayor Van Der Mark, Mayor Pro Tem Burns and Council Member McKeon for two main reasons:

- 1) This proposal is a waste of time, money and resources since the city's schools, library, and arts programs already honor and provide awareness about the rich historic heritage of the U.S., State of California, and City of Huntington Beach. We should leave it to educators and professionals to handle these types of programs, not citizen volunteers who have a political agenda. *Plus why are you adding this committee when you recently deleted boards and commissions, citing costs?*
- 2) This proposal does not recognize the diverse range of residents in our city nor the groups that these individuals belong to even though they are also part of the rich historic heritage of the U.S., State of California, and City of Huntington Beach. There's no mention of Black History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, LGBTQ Pride Month, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, etc. Even women are barely given a mention.

It's laughable (if it weren't so mean-spirited) that just 7-9 residents appointed by two council liaisons would develop the curriculum. Residents, non-residents, and tourists can see that this reeks of identity politics and political agendas, which is what you falsely claim you are trying to prevent!

Finally, shame on you for designating "We Love Our Libraries" for August after everything you've done to weaken and wreak havoc within our library system. You can't even get the month right. The HBPL's summer reading program starts in June and **ENDS** in early August. This would be the worst month for that monthly program. Did you even get any input from our librarians?

Sincerely,

Carol Daus

Huntington Beach resident, 28 years

From: Burns, Pat <PRAs@surfcity-hb.org>
Sent time: 12/22/2023 09:21:36 AM
To: Michael McShane <mmschane@outlook.com>
Subject: Re: Monthly heritage, identity celebrations in Huntington Beach will be replaced w

I disagree. Stop thinking they need your help in making themselves feel as equal. In HB they are viewed as equal members of our community...except by few who think others are less and need their help to lift them up with more recognition and favor than others. Let's move on beyond the divisive identity politics that has proven to be destructive. Pat Burns

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 21, 2023, at 3:44 PM, Michael McShane <mmschane@outlook.com> wrote:

Claiming that an entire race, a gender and sexual orientation is identity politics is abhorrent. Replacing it with the history of oil wells? Really? You remove black history month, woman's history month and pride history for the history of oil wells? Our elected leaders need to lead in a more humane way. You need to do better.

Michael McShane
Huntington Beach, CA
714-803-7125

<https://www.oeregister.com/2023/12/20/monthly-heritage-identity-celebrations-in-huntington-beach-will-be-replaced-with-focus-on-citys-history/>

https://www.oeregister.com/2023/12/20/monthly-heritage-identity-celebrations-in-huntington-beach-will-be-replaced-with-focus-on-citys-history/?utm_email=64FDF4DD740325B34488D4318D&utm_medium=email&utm_source=litrak&utm_term=Story+Button&utm_campaign=scng-ocr-breaking-news&utm_content=alert

From: Jennifer Wilson <jwilly1068@yahoo.com>
Sent time: 12/19/2023 08:31:34 AM
To: McKeon, Casey <Casey.McKeon@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Re: No on 23-1063

Yes, sir.

On Monday, December 18, 2023 at 07:41:08 PM PST, McKeon, Casey <casey.mckeon@surfcity-hb.org> wrote:

Hi Jennifer, are you talking about the calendar of historical themed events for the City?

Casey McKeon
City Council Member
City of Huntington Beach
714-536-5553

On Dec 18, 2023, at 7:21 PM, Jennifer Wilson <jwilly1068@yahoo.com> wrote:

I am writing in opposition to the Council item 23-1063. Not that I think you all will read this or care. I don't understand this City Council's obsession with controlling the library (unless its just fear of the well-educated). You've never said a kind word about this amazing system that I and my kids, and thousands of community members, have used for years. Have you ever stepped inside, you new four? What cultural programs have you attended? What book displays have you seen? You all seem to think this city wants what you want, which appears to be uplifting white culture and disallowing any diversity whatsoever, but you clearly are living in your little echo chamber. This city does not need you to plan out a years worth of celebrations. It does a fine job without your overreach and inserting yourself where you don't need to be. The library celebrates everyone, it's inclusive, unlike you four. Leave it alone. Let staff do their jobs (no wonder so many are leaving. You're suffocating them). This item isn't fooling anyone as to what your real intentions are. Your identity politics are showing, as is your racism. Represent everyone, not just your loud minority. Listen to all the people. Leave the books as they are and stop this ridiculous, time-wasting, costly idea. We are sick of how you waste money and make this city the laughing stock of all OC.

From: McKeon, Casey <PRAs@surfcity-hb.org>
Sent time: 12/18/2023 07:41:02 PM
To: Jennifer Wilson <jwilly1068@yahoo.com>
Subject: Re: No on 23-1063

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From: Burns, Pat <PRAs@surfcity-hb.org>
Sent time: 12/22/2023 08:48:47 AM
To: C&D Hayden <cdtravellers@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Proposed actions against

Stop thinking they need your help in making themselves feel as equal. In HB they are viewed as equal members of our community...except by few who think they are less and need their help to lift them up with more recognition and favor than others. Let's move on beyond the divisive identity politics that has proven to be destructive. Pat Burns

Sent from my iPad

> On Dec 22, 2023, at 8:36 AM, C&D Hayden wrote:

>

> ?

> What is it about Huntington Beach that makes it's council determined to head backwards in it's recognition of the rights of gays etc to live their lives as they are allowed to do in the rest of America? You certainly would have made a perfect old South city during the Civil War wouldn't you. I'm amazed that your citizens are going to allow this to happen. You should be totally ashamed of yourselves to even consider this.

>

> For the record, I am a happily married (47 years) Canadian male and reading about your proposals shocked the hell out of me.

From: Alex Amerling <alexamerling100@gmail.com>
Sent time: 12/22/2023 12:29:08 PM
To: Burns, Pat <Pat.Burns@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Re: Question

No you need to stop thinking unarmed black people dont deserve due process of law by law enforcement and that racial bullying in schools is ok. Just admit it, you hate black people.

On Fri, Dec 22, 2023 at 8:50 AM Burns, Pat <Pat.Burns@surfcity-hb.org> wrote:

Stop thinking they need your help in making themselves feel as equal. In HB they are viewed as equal members of our community...except by few who think they are less and need their help to lift them up with more recognition and favor than others. Let's move on beyond the divisive identity politics that has proven to be destructive. Pat Burns

Sent from my iPad

> On Dec 22, 2023, at 8:31 AM, Alex Amerling <alexamerling100@gmail.com> wrote:

>

>

> Why do you hate black people and trans people?

From: Alex Amerling <alexamerling100@gmail.com>
Sent time: 12/22/2023 12:30:38 PM
To: Burns, Pat <Pat.Burns@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Re: Question

Ok David Duke, shouldnt you be burning crosses somewhere?

On Fri, Dec 22, 2023 at 8:50 AM Burns, Pat <Pat.Burns@surfcity-hb.org> wrote:

Stop thinking they need your help in making themselves feel as equal. In HB they are viewed as equal members of our community...except by few who think they are less and need their help to lift them up with more recognition and favor than others. Let's move on beyond the divisive identity politics that has proven to be destructive. Pat Burns

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From: Burns, Pat <PRAs@surfcity-hb.org>
Sent time: 12/22/2023 08:50:41 AM
To: Alex Amerling <alexamerling100@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Question

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Sent from my iPad

> On Dec 22, 2023, at 8:31 AM, Alex Amerling wrote:
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> Why do you hate black people and trans people?

From: Burns, Pat <PRAs@surfcity-hb.org>
Sent time: 12/22/2023 09:38:39 AM
To: tbacani58@aol.com
Subject: Re: THEMES FOR HB

Thank you very much! Pat Burns

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 21, 2023, at 11:36 AM, tbacani58@aol.com wrote:

I AM SO GREATFUL TO THE CITY OF HUNTING BEACH.
I HEARD ON THE NEWS THAT THE CITY IS PLANNING TO HAVE A THEME FOR EVERY MONTH
OF THE NEW YEAR; BUT GAY PRIDE AND ETHNICITY WILL NOT BE THE THEMES THAT
SEPARATE AND DIVIDE OUR CITIES AND OUR NATION.
THANK YOU FOR TAKING A STAND AGAINST THIS DISTRUCTIVE AGENDA TO CHANGE
AMERICA.
WE CAN CONTINUE TO BE PROUD TO LIVE IN THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY.
ALL OF YOU WILL BE APPRECIATED AND REMEMBERED AS BEING COURAGEOUS AND
RIGHTEOUS TOWARDS DEFENDING OUR MORAL LIBERTIES.

SO VERY GREATFUL!

TANYA BOGDANOVICH & OUR ENTIRE FAMILY

From: Abené Clayton <abene.clayton@guardian.co.uk>
Sent time: 12/22/2023 11:19:55 AM
To: Burns, Pat <Pat.Burns@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Re: Time Sensitive: Guardian US seeking comment + clarification on Monthly Historic Heritage programming

Thanks for getting back to me, I'm still happy to talk and add your insights to the piece we have published.

On Fri, 22 Dec 2023 at 09:39, Burns, Pat <Pat.Burns@surfcity-hb.org> wrote:

Just saw your email...sorry, maybe next time. Pat Burns

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 21, 2023, at 11:08 AM, Abené Clayton <abene.clayton@guardian.co.uk> wrote:

Hello, I am a reporter with the Guardian US and am writing a story about the recent city council item that would introduce monthly acknowledgments of state and local history.

I wanted to get in touch for a brief phone interview to clarify what this action means for nationally observed celebrations like Black History, Women's History, and Pride Month celebrations.

My deadline for a comment/interview is today at 4 pm PST as we are hoping to run this story by the end of the day.

Thank you for your consideration, feel free to call me at (510) 734-6648.

--

Best,
Abené C.

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From: tbacani58@aol.com

Sent time: 12/21/2023 11:36:18 AM

To: Strickland, Tony <Tony.Strickland@surfcity-hb.org>; Bolton, Rhonda <Rhonda.Bolton@surfcity-hb.org>; Burns, Pat <Pat.Burns@surfcity-hb.org>; Moser, Natalie <Natalie.Moser@surfcity-hb.org>; lillisimone@surfcity-hb.org; iamalmira@surfcity-hb.org; Van Der Mark, Gracey <Gracey.VanDerMark@surfcity-hb.org>; Kalmick, Dan <Dan.Kalmick@surfcity-hb.org>

Subject: THEMES FOR HB

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TANYA BOGDANOVICH & OUR ENTIRE FAMILY

From: Abené Clayton <abene.clayton@guardian.co.uk>
Sent time: 12/21/2023 11:08:19 AM
To: Burns, Pat <Pat.Burns@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Time Sensitive: Guardian US seeking comment + clarification on Monthly Historic Heritage programming

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From: Abené Clayton <abene.clayton@guardian.co.uk>
Sent time: 12/21/2023 11:11:18 AM
To: McKeon, Casey <Casey.McKeon@surfcity-hb.org>
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From: Abené Clayton <abene.clayton@guardian.co.uk>
Sent time: 12/21/2023 11:06:20 AM
To: Van Der Mark, Gracey <Gracey.VanDerMark@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Time Sensitive: Guardian US seeking comment + clarification on Monthly Historic Heritage Programming

Hello, I am a reporter with the Guardian US and am writing a story about the recent city council item that would introduce monthly acknowledgments of state and local history.

I wanted to get in touch for a brief phone interview to clarify what this action means for nationally observed things like Black History, Women's History, and Pride Month celebrations.

My deadline for a comment/interview is today at 4 pm as we are hoping to run this story by the end of the day.

Thank you for your consideration, feel free to call me at (510) 734-6648.

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Best,
Abené C.

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