

## Levesque, Jennifer

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**From:** Alyssa Castro <acastro@yli.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 03, 2021 12:46 PM  
**To:** cityclerk  
**Subject:** Public comment

Good evening council members, community members and distinguished guests,

Thank you for joining us this evening. I am pleased to see items regarding PRIDE month on the agenda and we are in-complete support of the city council voting on the pride progress flag in Bob Hart Square. However, I want to take a moment to acknowledge and honor BIPOC LGBTQ+ folx that have been murdered due to the policing and violence in our community.

By having resolutions to protect Merced BIPOC LGBTQ+ community members, we acknowledge and honor the lives who were taken from us. While this is not accountability or justice, this can be a great step that the city can take to prevent tragedies like we've seen in recent years.

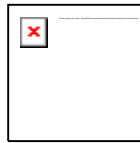
The city of Merced needs to pass a resolution that directly addresses the needs and concerns of the BIPOC LGBTQ+ community, by including: systemic support and services, youth resources, legal assistance, and accountability from all city officials. We look forward to further communication with you all and submitting a proposal resolution. To successfully pass this resolution, we ask that this subject be added to the agenda for next city council meeting—in order to have an in-depth discussion about the safety and lives of our LGBTQ+ community.

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### Alyssa Castro

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