



CLUE (Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice) Santa Barbara

Death of Inmate Sparks Community Vigil to Spotlight Injustice and Call for Change Amid COVID-19 Outbreak at the Main Jail

SANTA BARBARA, CA – JANUARY 25, 2022 – To underscore the urgent need for jails that are safe and humane, a vigil is set for Saturday, January 29, 2022, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the front entrance of the Santa Barbara County Courthouse, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara (LWVSB). “We want to shine a light on the January 12, 2022 death in the jail of a man recently arrested and incarcerated, as well as on the unhealthy conditions and unjust treatment of incarcerated individuals in our local jail,” explains League Vice President of Programs Pam Flynt Tambo. “Dramatic change is needed to address not only the jail’s out-of-control spread of COVID-19, but also the shortcomings in the entire system from intake and evaluation of individuals to their treatment and release from custody.”

The League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara (LWVSB) and Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE) in conjunction with 14 other local co-sponsoring organizations are calling for immediate changes that include:

- Safely reducing the number of jail inmates
- Ensuring alternative placements to address mental health needs
- Making full-assessment teams available around the clock to evaluate every individual entering the jail following arrest, to determine whether incarceration, treatment, or release is the warranted action
- Supporting our community with discharge planning for each incarcerated person, to provide a path for successful release and re-entry

A program of speakers for the January 29 courthouse vigil is also planned. Speakers at the event will be formerly incarcerated people and their families, clergy, and advocates for change.

Welcome and Invitation to Prayer

Julia Hamilton is the Lead Minister of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

Speakers (partial) list

- *JP Herrada, Program Director and Co-founder of the Alternatives to Violence Project in Santa Barbara.*

MORE...

Speakers (partial list) continued

- *Juan Higuera*, Co-Chair of the Racial Justice Committee of Santa Barbara County Public Defender's Office
- *Mark Saatjian*, Defense Attorney
- *Maureen Earls*, CLUE, Co-Chair of the Criminal Justice Workgroup
- A representative of the Underground Scholars of UCSB
- *David Moore*, Pastor of the Beloved Community (New Covenant) Church

Moderators

- *Pastor Gerardo (Jerry) Menchaca*, New Beginnings Church
- *Lane Clark*, President of the Board of CLUE (Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice), Santa Barbara, and Convener of the Peace, Earthcare, and Social Concerns Committee of the Santa Barbara Friends meeting, (Quakers).

Music by *Ejé Lynn-Jacobs*

Out of consideration for the safety of others, attendees should be vaccinated, wear masks, and observe physical distance during the vigil. Additional masks will be available on-site.

Vigil Co-sponsors

The Beloved Community (New Covenant) Church
CAUSE
Catholic Church of the Beatitudes
The Greater Santa Barbara Clergy Association
Families ACT!
Fearless Grandmothers
Free Methodist Church of Santa Barbara
The Fund for Santa Barbara
NAACP
St. Anthony's Catholic Community
SURJ Santa Maria
Racial Justice Committee of the Public Defender's Office
Underground Scholars of UCSB
Women's March

For more information, contact Pam Flynt Tambo, League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara, at pambotambo@gmail.com , (805) 451-4340.

#