

Madame Chair,

For the record, my name is Dr. Etan Nasreddin-Longo. I am both the chair of the Racial Disparities in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems Advisory Panel, and the co-chair of the Fair and Impartial Policing Committee of the Vermont State Police.

I learned just a few moments ago via an email forwarded to me that the Senate Gov Operations Committee invited "everyone" to this afternoon's committee meeting to hear from all interested parties again today on law enforcement issues. The Chair's expectation of the discussion today was described as: "Important that we give everyone the opportunity to address these issues."

I appreciate your acknowledgement for the extremely late notice, but I have at that exact time other important commitments. As you can imagine, in the current social moment, I cannot now, with only moments of notice, withdraw from meetings scheduled with proper notice.

I appreciate the legislative attention that matters of racial justice are now getting, but I do hope that you realize that members of Communities of Color are suddenly much in demand, and have very recently been asked to participate in more meetings than any one human can possibly attend. I know that the Legislature's intent is sterling, but the late notices that we receive almost hourly provoke a complex response. I must admit that they themselves feel a bit slapdash given the years of energy and dedication that all of the invitees have focused upon these matters. We cannot possibly attend all of the meetings that have been convened in the last two weeks.

I hope that your meeting is successful. I am tortured by the thought that so many people in power will be in attendance, and that I will not be able to attend when at long last the Legislature's attention is upon matters of life and death to me and to others. Given both of my positions, I believe that I can say without undue self-aggrandizement that I am in a good position - also as a multiple minority who is of color, queer, Jewish, and neurodivergent - to speak to these issues. I'm sorry that I will not be able to speak to the newest and latest developments.

Respectfully,

Dr. Etan Nasreddin-Longo

Chair, Racial Disparities in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems Advisory Panel

Co-chair, Fair and Impartial Policing Committee of the Vermont State Police