

I am sending two documents to you as the Chair of the RDAP. First is a copy of the report of the RDAP from 4 December of last year. The report contains a great deal of material, developed over two years and *with the express participation of community members at large*. The notion of community participation is crucial - the report speaks quite well about the notion of "not about us, without us" that informs the thinking of many people of color when addressing the sorts of legislative moves that are currently being discussed. I send this report not only to make that point, but also to depict recommendations to the Legislature that have already been submitted with community participation. In short - there may not be a need to reinvent completely the wheel. It has come to my attention that despite the fact that the RDAP submitted this report over six months ago, many in the Legislature are not aware of this work and its timely nature.

I am also submitting another, more diffuse document. On Tuesday of this week, members of the RDAP submitted commentary upon the Modernization document that Commissioner Schirling has originated. I compiled most of these responses into one document that ought to be read with that original document. Again, this is *community participation*. This is the antidote to "not about us without us". It is messy. It might annoy. I would suggest that when many cooks are involved, the meal becomes a diverse and rewarding affair.

Another related document is entitled: Modernization-Rebecca Turner. This document, from another member of the RDAP, is more coherent than the document that I compiled, and it simply expands the original. It is easier to read than is my document. Nonetheless, I deeply believe that all of them should be submitted to the Committee.

Would you please confirm that these documents have been made available to the committee members? Thank you very much.

Thank you,

Dr. Etan Nasreddin-Longo  
Chair, Advisory Panel on Racial Disparities in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems.

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Dr. Etan Nasreddin-Longo