

## Anti-racism letters in the Benicia Herald

Wednesday, April 28, 2021, by Susan Street

### Off the Mark As Usual

Poor Mr. Livesay...off the mark as usual with his letter on Sunday the 25th. He is incorrect when he says Benicia is not a racist city. Speak with any black person that lives in this town, and you will hear heartbreaking stories of unwarranted police stops and mistreatment of blacks in Benicia.

However, things are changing, thanks to Mayor Steve Young's efforts. And thanks to Erik Upson, who, at the time of his tenure as Police Chief, listened to the citizens who recognized that Benicia had a problem, and did something about it, guiding our police force in the unacceptability of racial injustice. And now, as City manager, he is carrying out the policies, set by the City Council to recognize and eradicate unconscious bias, misuse of power and racism in Benicia. We have Dr. Maliika Chambers, our new Equity, Diversity and Inclusion manager, we have Benicia Black Lives Matter, and we have a new awareness of how we all can be allies in our efforts to create justice FOR ALL in Benicia.

I am proud that our fair city has recognized the problem and is doing something about it instead of pretending racism does not exist.

Susan Street  
Benicia

