



Black Women For Wellness Joins Coalition of Community Based Organizations Demanding the Resignation of Kevin de Leon

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“We need and deserve a City Council that will help us do the work to bring about racial, environmental, and economic justice for all.” stated Tianna Shaw-Wakeman, Environmental Justice Program Lead for Black Women For Wellness.

Over a month has passed since the residents of Los Angeles heard the racist comments and plan to disenfranchise Black/African American communities spoken behind closed doors.

While Martinez and Herrera have resigned, Kevin de Leon has opted to hoard power by remaining in place - not good enough! An investigation of their actions, of decisions surrounding hiring, contracts and grants is needed to learn how deeply this group violated the basic human right of fair representation. DeLeon’s continued refusal to resign exacerbates an already intense lack of trust in this City Council and holds up the important work of community-based organizations who have paused long-fought efforts in solidarity with the ‘No Business as Usual’ call.

Black Women for Wellness, California Latinas for Reproductive Justice and California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative are reproductive organizations who have long worked to build connection, communication and bridges between Black, Brown and Asian women in California; our work demands the practice of solidarity. This is why we stand firm with the community based organizations inside City Council District 14 and the people of Los Angeles in demanding resignation and NOT letting the media or time sweep this egregious violation of trust and power away.

“As a Latina/o led Reproductive Justice organization, we are deeply enraged, ashamed and disgusted by the racist power hungry conversations between Council members Martinez, Cedillo and DeLeon and Labor Leader Ron Herrera. Racial sexual and gender justice are core parts of the Reproductive Justice framework and therefore we at California Latinas for Reproductive Justice unequivocally denounce the anti-Black, anti-Indigenous and homophobic statements expressed by these supposed Latino “leaders”. We commit to doing the work to dismantle white supremacy within Latino communities and to stand in support and solidarity with our Black and Indigenous relatives and the LGBTQ communities. It is in contradiction to the work, humanity and values we demand from leadership in Los Angeles, and yes those of us

working in the Reproductive Justice world.” **Laura Jimenez Executive Director of California Latinas for Reproductive Justice**

BWW stands in solidarity with the following beliefs held by the collective community demanding Kevin de Leon’s resignation and the following remedies to begin rebuilding the trust of city government as well between the communities of color in Los Angeles City;

- 1) **Kevin De Leon’s immediate resignation**
- 2) **No Business As Usual by other city council members while KDL holds position**
- 3) **Schedule special elections for CD 4, 10, 14**
- 4) **Investigation into hiring practices, contracts and grants awarded and other racist action that minimize Black people’s community and power**
- 5) **Examination of lines drawn to create districts from the census and new independent entity to draw district lines in the future**
- 6) **Healing justice for the harm caused by racist actions and remarks to the Black community and children of City Council person Mike Bonin**

“The leaked audio showcased egregious and violent comments geared toward a Black toddler, deep-seated racism towards Indigenous Oaxacan people, and pointed to an organized effort to weaken Black representation in Los Angeles and punish elected officials that stand with Black communities and progressive values Our communities deserve better.” says **Black Women for Wellness Executive Director, Janette Robinson Flint**

“Our work is to dismantle racist systems that both create and propagandize a theory of scarcity. One that for too long has benefited from turning marginalized groups against each other while continuing to create deep inequities in our communities. As Reproductive Justice leaders, we know that California’s exceptionalism does not exempt it from this country’s racist, anti-Black, anti-Indigenous history, and that white supremacy continues to plague our communities.” **Lisa Fu Executive Director California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative**

There is no room for elected officials who fail to see the humanity of Black, Indigenous, LGBTQIA+ people or our children and who care only for their own political ambitions. Reproductive Justice means working together towards collective liberation - Apologies and statements are not enough to dismantle the violent and toxic white supremacist legacy this country was built on.

It is time for change, and we need bold leaders who prioritize and advance solidarity, who are guided by justice, and who will work with us to build a City our communities deserve.

Janette Robinson Flint / Executive Director / Black Women for Wellness
Andria Hancock Crear / Interim Board Chair / Black Women for Wellness Action Project
Lisa Fu / Executive Director / California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative
Laura Jimenez / Executive Director / California Latinas for Reproductive Justice



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