

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: silencing pain
Date: Thursday, January 30, 2025 9:56:21 AM

From: Nita nita [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 12:14 PM
To: citycouncil@santacruzca.gov; Board Of Supervisors
<boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: silencing pain

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Dear elected officials,

We in the community know that a Black man lit himself on fire last week as a statement, a message. I am writing to call you out to make this news known, not his identity, that is not the point. This person, had the courage, and selflessness to deliver this painful message that has been squashed, silenced by all of you. That he is a Black man, a member of our community, and being silenced, is even more egregious.

It is your responsibility to lead a community through painful and challenging times like this and to honor his act by acknowledging it not hiding it. You can protect his identity and do him honor as well.

Please have the courage yourselves to look at what this act

means and walk with all of us through it.

Sincerely,

Nita Hertel

