

June 4, 2020

Dear Placentia Library District Patrons,

Our country is hurting.

In the past weeks, we have been dealing with the relentless COVID-19 pandemic and its uncertainties. We are now agonizing over the senseless death of George Floyd and the aftermath of such injustice. What happened to Mr. Floyd has shaken the world.

Let us channel our anger and pain into something positive. Let our voices, and peaceful demonstrations show that justice can prevail. I am a strong believer that as a community we can be the change. Let us take the time to get to know our neighbors and fellow Americans better.

Recently I have had several conversations with our Police Chief. I invited him to share a message with you reaffirming his department's commitment to protecting the safety of our residents and property. Please find below Chief Lenyi's message.

Our team at Placentia Library District have never wavered on our commitment to serve people of all origins, age, background, and views. Your skin color, religious beliefs, ethnicity, political affiliations, etc. has no impact on the service you receive at our library. Our vision is guided by the principle of excellent customer service and human connections. Our mission is to bring people together. Our team enacts this mission through respect for human dignity and kindness. One way we can support change is by providing access to materials and resources educating us on the history and impacts of racism.

Below is a sample of current available titles on anti-racism:

- The Youngest Marcher
- Something Happened in our Town: A Child's Story About Racial Injustice
- Not My Idea: A Book About Whiteness
- Separate Is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation
- Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You
- Let the Children March (Overdrive)
- A Good Kind of Trouble (Overdrive)
- The New Jim Crowe (Hoopla)
- Exposing Hate (Hoopla)
- Me and White Supremacy (Hoopla)
- Between the World and Me (Hoopla)

As your library, you have our promise to advance diversity, inclusion, and equity. As a community, each of us is responsible for re-shaping our great nation and ending systematic racism. I believe we can.

Let the healing begin.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Contreras
Library Director