

Link to sign letter: <http://bit.ly/FG-SURJLetter>

Letter to FG Police Chief

re: racial harassment on 2/9/2020 outside Jesse Quinn apartments

Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Forest Grove
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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/218914108541315>

February 24, 2020

Dear Interim Forest Grove Police Chief Henry Reimann:

As members of the Forest Grove chapter of Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), we have questions and concerns about the racial harassment incident on Sunday, February 9, outside the Jesse Quinn Apartments in our downtown business district. We saw the video that Alondra Rojo-Perez captured*, and we heard from her about how the man grabbed her sister. It's our understanding that four or five police officers responded to this situation and were able to locate the man and speak to him directly that evening, but found no cause for arrest or further investigation.

According to Alondra Rojo-Perez and the video she recorded, she and her sisters – Evelin Rojo-Perez and Alejandra Rojo-Perez – felt very intimidated and harassed by this white man. He publicly insulted all three with abusive, racially charged words and grabbed Evelin. We do not understand how this man could get up into the personal space of three Latina women, block their path and subject one to offensive physical contact, while shouting racially degrading words, yet not be arrested or charged with any crime. With all due respect to Constitutionally protected freedom of speech, it seems like this incident should still fit the criteria for menacing or harassment or intimidation or some kind of hate crime. For that reason, we are requesting a meeting with you – and, if possible, the key officers involved – to better understand how this incident was interpreted and handled by police.

As SURJ members, we are committed to helping our town address systemic racism in order to ensure that Forest Grove is a welcoming place for *everyone* regardless of skin color or ethnicity. We recognize that the Forest Grove Police Department is in the midst of significant staff changes right now, so please let us know what times/dates would work best for you. It is deeply troubling to us that this kind of behavior is happening in Forest Grove

without consequence, and we look forward to talking with you as soon as possible about solutions.

Sincerely,

Members of Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), Forest Grove Chapter

NEXT STEPS:

1. Jill will deliver the letter to the police dept on Monday (2/24).
2. Charlotte will contact Alondra with the update on our next steps, see if she wants to be part of mtg (and/or one of the other women who were with her), and if so - what is her best availability.
3. Charlotte will contact Center for Gender Equity at Pacific to see if they want to be involved/supportive.
4. Charlotte will contact manager of Jesse Quinn Apts regarding security video.
5. Charlotte will contact Narce with Pacific U Equity Diversity & Inclusion to see if they would like to be involved/supportive

Availability - scheduling the meeting

- Charlotte is available Mondays 10am-2pm, Weds before noon, Fridays before 3 pm
- Clare can meet during the day - esp if she has advanced notice & can plan work schedule around it.
- Jill & Brenda available during the day, depending.
- Rob & Elizabeth - available, depending?

Local businesses we could invite to sign on that are in the vicinity of the incident:

- Growler Garage
- Wells Fargo
- Kafe - Brenda will contact
- Necropolis Tattoo - Brenda will contact

Other letters on hold for now -- pending the response from FG Police Dept

DRAFT Letter to Forest Grove City Council

What do we want to ask of them?

DRAFT Open Letter to News-Times

(opportunity to place this incident within systemic framework so readers - esp white people - can't dismiss this as "one crazy drunk dude" as some are already referencing.)