



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
SHEILA KUEHL
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

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29.		Favor	Abigail Sobotka-Briner	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS. Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p> <p>However, it is also important to acknowledge the ableism that is embedded in the language used in this matter, and I ask that more considerate and accurate language be used to replace the word "blind" in this context. Further, it is important to note the harm that can be caused by promoting the "colorblind" rhetoric when it comes to matters of racial injustice.</p>
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29.		Favor	Alex Fierro-Clarke	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>



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29.		Favor	Alexa Spiegel	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>



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29.		Favor	Alexandra Vechil	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>The County should support families and youth of color by pushing forward laws that provide for racial equity - right down to the children.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>



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29.		Favor	Alison T Agnew	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>



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29.		Favor	Alix Kalaher	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>



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29.		Favor	Amanda Albert	
			Amy 1 Vreeman	



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29.		Favor	Ana Yglesias	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>[The County should support families and youth of color by...]</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>



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29.		Favor	Andrea Antony-Morr	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>



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29.		Favor	Angela McLafferty	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>



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29.		Favor	Ashley Glacel	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>



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Correspondence Received

The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
29.		Favor	Ashley Locke	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>



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29.		Favor	Autumn Kessler	



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29.		Favor	Basilio Gomez	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>



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29.		Favor	Becca von Behren	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>



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Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
29.		Favor	Bri Maranga	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee.</p> <p>Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line. The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>



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Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
29.		Favor	Bri Price	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>



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29.		Favor	Bridget Ore	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>



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29.		Favor	Brittney Pollock	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>



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29.		Favor	Camille Muth	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>The County should support families and youth of color.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>



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29.		Favor	Caro Brooks	<p>Thank you, Supervisor Mitchell, for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>



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29.		Favor	Caroline P Christ	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>



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Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
29.		Favor	Carolyn Park	
			Catherine Safley	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>The County should support families and youth of color by actively working to eradicate racism in DCFS practices, policies and ideology across the board, and especially by addressing these inequities in sectors including employment, schooling, housing and other elements of daily life that affect experiences, outcomes and overall well-being of youth of color and their families.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care</p>



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			<p>will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
		Cecilia Gomez	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still</p>



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			Charlotte Soestini	<p>do end up in foster care.</p> <p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>The County should support families and youth of color by providing trained support to children and families who are clearly suffering.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
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Chris Howard	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
Chris Riddle	
Clara M McCarthy	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this</p>



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	Cody D Sloan		<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p>



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Colin Doty

Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS. Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.



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Courtney Khademi	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee.</p>



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		Dahlia Ferlito	<p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a</p>	



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	<p>long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
Dan Monick	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p>



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	<p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
Daniel Gaines	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice</p>



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		<p>Daniel Giesy</p>	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and</p>



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	<p>lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
Danielle Fiorito	
Danile Giesy	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>



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Darcy Laparra	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
David Noble	



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David N Greenspan	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
Delia Brown	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p>



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Desa K Bolger

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Dylan Halper

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Elena M Shuquem	
Elise Kalfayan	
Elise Moore	
Elizabeth Finder	
Ellen Giesy	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are</p>



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Ellen Wildhagen	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>The County should support families and youth of color by providing programs that empower them, teaching them emotional regulation, resources on raising their families, etc. We should be equipping families with the education and resources to thrive, not struggle in a community as abundant as ours.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee.</p>



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Emily Sung	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address</p>



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Emma Olson	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a</p>



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Emma Persico	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in</p>



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Erica Hendry	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in</p>



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		Erica A De Sutter	
		Erin Rein	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care</p>



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Gabriela Vazquez	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p>
Geoffrey Golden	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p>



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Gillian Mammone	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not</p>



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Grace Persico	
Gregory Irwin	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a</p>



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		Harris Kornstein	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p>



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Herley Jim J Bowling	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice</p>



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Isabel Gomez	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster</p>



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	care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.
Isabella Lamboy	
Jack MacCarthy	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line. The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
Jacob E Sternberg	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p>



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Jane A Afonso	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>The County should support people of color by investing more resources in POC communities.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of</p>



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Jennifer L Collins	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p>



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	Jennifer L White		
	Jessi Jones	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes</p>	



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	<p>initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care</p>
Jessica Erker	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p>



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Jewell Karinen	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to</p>



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Jinifer Roos	
Jinni Barr	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of</p>



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		Joan Harper	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>The County should support families and youth of color by funding and supporting services in the community that know their needs and can be of real support.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized</p>



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	<p>environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
Jordan Riggs	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in</p>



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		Jordan Stallings	
		Jordana Gardenswartz	
		Joseph Bobman	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice</p>



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		Joseph C Velasquez	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and</p>



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	<p>lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
Joseph M Gallegos	
Judith Schomp	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>The County should support families and youth of color by investing in them — yes, with actual money! There is no question there is much wealth disparity in this city when it comes to race. It's the government's job to close that gap not uphold a status quo of inequality.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline,</p>



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	<p>suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
Judy Branfman	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>



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Julia Koerber	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
Julia F Morez	
julie D Martinez	
Karen Alvarez	



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Katharine Mound	
Keith Pakiz	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>



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Kelly Perron	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
Kevin R Carter	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this</p>



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Kirsten Hansen	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee</p>



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Kristen Studard	<p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee.</p>



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Kylie A Sparks	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p>



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Lani Engstrom	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a</p>



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Laura Adery	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p>



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	<p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
Leah Silbert	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system,</p>



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Levon Haroutunian	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at</p>



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	<p>high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
<p>Lisa Butters-Smith</p>	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>[</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line. The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
<p>lizabeth belli</p>	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step</p>



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to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.

Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.

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Louise I Dobbs

Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.

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Lucas OConnor	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to</p>



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	<p>eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming - 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
	<p>Madelyn Roth</p> <p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized</p>



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	<p>environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
Maraky Alemseged	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in</p>



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	<p>group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
Maria Ahverdyan	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line. The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster</p>



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	care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.
Marjorie L Schuetz	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
mary fagot	
Mary Gallo	Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the



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	<p>racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Address the issues that are impacting Black and Latinx families and help parents build skills so that families can stay together.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
Maureen S Chapple	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step</p>



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	<p>to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
Maxwell Israel	
McKenna Rowe	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p>



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Melissa Butts

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Melissa Manousos

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Michele Wetteland	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove the opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a caseworker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the caseworker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address</p>



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Michelle Alger-Mintie	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>The County should support families and youth of color by implementing this program. I am also a public servant that works with youth. Despite all my training and best intentions, there are many times when I accidentally make a value judgement based on race. Even the most educated, highest qualified in their field can let their unconscious bias get away with them. This blind process will provide a check to this kind of unintentional discrimination. It is a small change that is basically free and could make huge difference in the racial inequity experienced in the Child Welfare System.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are</p>



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		MJ King	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address</p>	



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	<p>racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
Nicole Knudsen	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and</p>



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	<p>function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
Nicole Mackie	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized</p>



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			<p>environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p>
		Peter Dandrea	<p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p> <p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care. However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system. Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line. The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in</p>



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	<p>group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
Phoebe Neidhardt	
Rachel Rosenbloom	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care</p>



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		Rachel Salvati	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>The County should support families and youth of color by keeping families together and working to provide families at risk with the resources they need to regain stability, rather than removing children and placing them in dangerous situations.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee.</p> <p>Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line. The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster</p>



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	<p>care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
<p>Rain Phoenix</p>	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line. The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
<p>Rebecca Himmelstein</p>	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p>



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	Rena Galvez		
	Ruby Condon		<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>The County should support families and youth of color by investing in restorative measures for youth and families, as well as anti bias training for</p>



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			<p>social workers. Color-blindness will NOT aid in this, we need to acknowledge how race has put many at risk of incarceration or family separation.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>	
		Saharra White		
		Salsabil Emdad		<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p>



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		<p>[The County should support families and youth of color by...]</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
	Samantha Lappin	
	Sarah Bowers	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p>



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Sarah Whitman	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee</p>



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			<p>determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
		Sean Donahue	
		Selina Ho	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>The County should support families and youth of color by making the</p>



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necessary reforms to prevent racial bias from harming families and also the necessary investments to make sure that families have the resources to ensure the children's safety and well-being.

Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.

However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.

Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.

The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.

Shane Whitaker

Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.

The County should support families and youth of color by acknowledging and



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reducing the risk these families face, the reasons for that risk (including racism!) and mitigating that risk with boldly.

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Shannon Lyman

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Sierra Marcelius	
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<p>Skyler Bennett</p>	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee.</p>



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Sophia Rome	
Stephanie Nilles	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p>



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	Stephen Brantley		
	Sue Abrams	<p>Children’s Law Center of California (“CLC”) thanks Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this important motion. CLC serves as the court appointed attorneys for more than 30,000 children in Los Angeles County who are in foster care, or who are alleged to come within the jurisdiction of the court because of abuse or neglect.</p> <p>For far too long, the child welfare system across the United States – including here in Los Angeles – has been plagued by racial disparity and disproportionality. Black and Native American children are overrepresented at every level of contact in the decision-making process, which includes being reported to the hotline for allegations of child abuse, investigated by a social worker and ultimately separated and ending up in the system. After being removed from their families, black children are less likely to reunify or find permanency, which leaves them more likely to grow up in foster care and enter adulthood without a family</p> <p>The decision to separate a family should only take place with the highest level of scrutiny. Yet there is growing body of research pointing to the presence of implicit racial bias in every stage of the process. All of us working within the child welfare system must do better because the consequences – the temporary or sometimes permanent separation of a family – are far too great.</p>	



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	<p>It is important to recognize that throughout the past decade, system partners in Los Angeles have put forth a number of initiatives to fight racism and honor diversity, inclusion and cultural humility within the child welfare system. For many years, CLC has had an internal Reducing Racial Disproportionality and Disparity (ReDD) Committee, which strives to help our staff recognize and understand the impact of our own biases on our clients, each other and the communities we serve.</p> <p>Despite these efforts, the issue of overrepresentation for families of color still persists. There is still much to learn about the effectiveness of blind removal. However, the research around New York's blind removal project – which removes demographics from the analysis of whether to separate a family – shows promising results. Supervisor Mitchell's motion is the right approach, as it would require the establishment of a pilot project, which would include an evaluation, proper training and support from experts versed in racial bias and blind removals. Notably, CLC is co-sponsoring legislation at the state level with a similar goal. Establishing a blind removal pilot is an important first step in restoring equity in the process of family intervention in Los Angeles County and we urge the support from the Board of Supervisors.</p>
Susie Giesy	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in</p>



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		Suzanne Boretz	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>I have a dear friend who went through the foster system, and she has told me from experience that what families facing separation need most is support. Keeping families (that don't need to be separated) together and helping them meet their needs can have a stabilizing effect that can last generations.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in</p>



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Tara Gardner	
Theo Zucker	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in</p>



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		Theo B Giesy	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at</p>



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Tiana McKenna	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>



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			<p>Tobin DeMarco</p>	<p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee determines whether a child removal should occur without the consideration of race or ethnicity. Blind removals have been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of Black and Brown youth in foster care.</p> <p>However, in a system that is racially biased, it is not enough to simply remove opportunity for racial bias in the committee determining whether a child should be removed or not. There is still a case worker that visits homes initially and is not immune to biases around the race and neighborhood of the family, which can affect how the case worker presents to the committee. Furthermore, there are several other steps in the foster care system that are susceptible to racial bias. The removal is only one piece of the foster care system.</p> <p>Color blindness is not a solution to systemic racism. In order to address racism in the child welfare system, we cannot pretend that race does not exist. Blind removals are a helpful start in eradicating the opportunity for racial bias, but they do not eliminate racial bias itself. DCFS must actively work to eliminate the racial bias that exists in its employees, and it must reconsider a long history of racialized policies that are embedded into the structure and function of DCFS. Blind removals will likely reduce the proportion of youth of color that end up in foster care. However, foster care itself is still a racialized environment that disproportionately harms youth of color. Black youth in foster care are more likely to end up incarcerated or homeless down the line.</p> <p>The foster care to prison pipeline means it is absolutely critical that youth receive the services and support they need and have lacked. Youth placed in group homes are 2.5 times more likely to get involved in the justice system, and 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will enter the justice system. The statistics are overwhelming — 1 in 4 youth leaving foster care will become involved in the criminal justice system within two years of leaving care. Compounded with already disproportionate rates of school discipline, suspension, and expulsion for Black children, foster care puts Black youth at high risk of entering the justice system because of unjust criminalization and lack of support to rectify it. Reducing the proportion of Black children in foster care will not reduce the severity of the impact for the Black children who still do end up in foster care.</p>
			<p>Viet Nguyen</p>	<p>Thank you Supervisor Mitchell for bringing forth this motion to address the racial injustice that permeates our child welfare system. I strongly support this motion and urge the Board to vote in favor of blind removals as an initial step to reducing racial disparities in DCFS.</p> <p>Blind removals are one step in improving outcomes for families and youth of color. With demographics and neighborhood redacted, a committee</p>



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
SHEILA KUEHL
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

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		Other	zoe rawson	the concept of 'color-blindness' is racist. until the system is 'color-blind' you won't be able to accomplish this even with good intention
		Item Total	157	
Grand Total			157	

July 12, 2021

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Board Operations Division, Executive Office
500 West Temple Street, Room 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: Public Comment – July 13, 2021 – Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Meeting –
Agenda Item 29: Toward a Color-Blind Child Welfare System: Pilot Program for Safeguarding
Against Racial Bias**

Dear Honorable Supervisors,

The Alliance for Children's Rights is submitting the following written comment for the July 13, 2021, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors meeting in support of agenda item 29: Toward a Color-Blind Child Welfare System: Pilot Program for Safeguarding Against Racial Bias.

The Alliance for Children's Rights protects the rights of impoverished, abused, and neglected children and youth. By providing free legal services, advocacy, and programs that create pathways to jobs and education, the Alliance levels the playing field and ensures that children who have experienced foster care are able to fulfill their potential. We know from our clients that housing stability and homelessness prevention are urgent and critical needs facing young adults getting ready to exit foster care.

The Alliance for Children's Rights (ACR) supports the motion sponsored by Supervisor Mitchell seeking to address the racial disproportionality and disparities in the County's child welfare system by establishing a blind removal pilot. The Alliance views blind removal as a promising strategy to avoid the trauma of separation for the Black, Native American, and Latino families and communities that are disproportionately impacted by the system.

Within the blind removal model, all identifying information (e.g., names, race, and address) is redacted from the investigating social worker's report before a committee of agency staff makes a recommendation about placing a child in out-of-home care. This redaction allows the committee members to focus on the facts of the case without the influence of contextual details that could potentially trigger personal bias. An evaluation of the first blind removal implementation, in Nassau County, New York, found that the percentage of Black children among children entering care dropped from 57 percent in 2011 to 21 percent in 2016.

Through initiatives such as Thriving Families, Safer Children, the County has prioritized prevention services in its campaign to build a more equitable child welfare system. Along with reducing the risk of maltreatment, the concept of "prevention" should include preventing unnecessary removals, particularly for the families of color who are swept up into the system because of issues related to poverty and structural racism. In Nassau County and elsewhere, practitioners have used a blind removal model to not only minimize the impact of implicit bias in the child welfare decision-

making process, but also ensure children and families receive the supports and services they need to thrive.

Creating an equitable and just child welfare system in Los Angeles County will require reforms at every stage of the child welfare process. Blind removal is an innovative strategy that has demonstrated the potential to reduce racial bias at a critical decision-making point—the decision to separate a child and parent. The Alliance commends Supervisor Mitchell for introducing this motion and the Board for their continued work to improve systems serving the County’s marginalized families and communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Noble". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Noble
Policy Associate
dnoble@alliancecr.org