

CULVER CITY SPEAKER SERIES 11.21.19

DISCRIMINATORY LAND USE POLICIES

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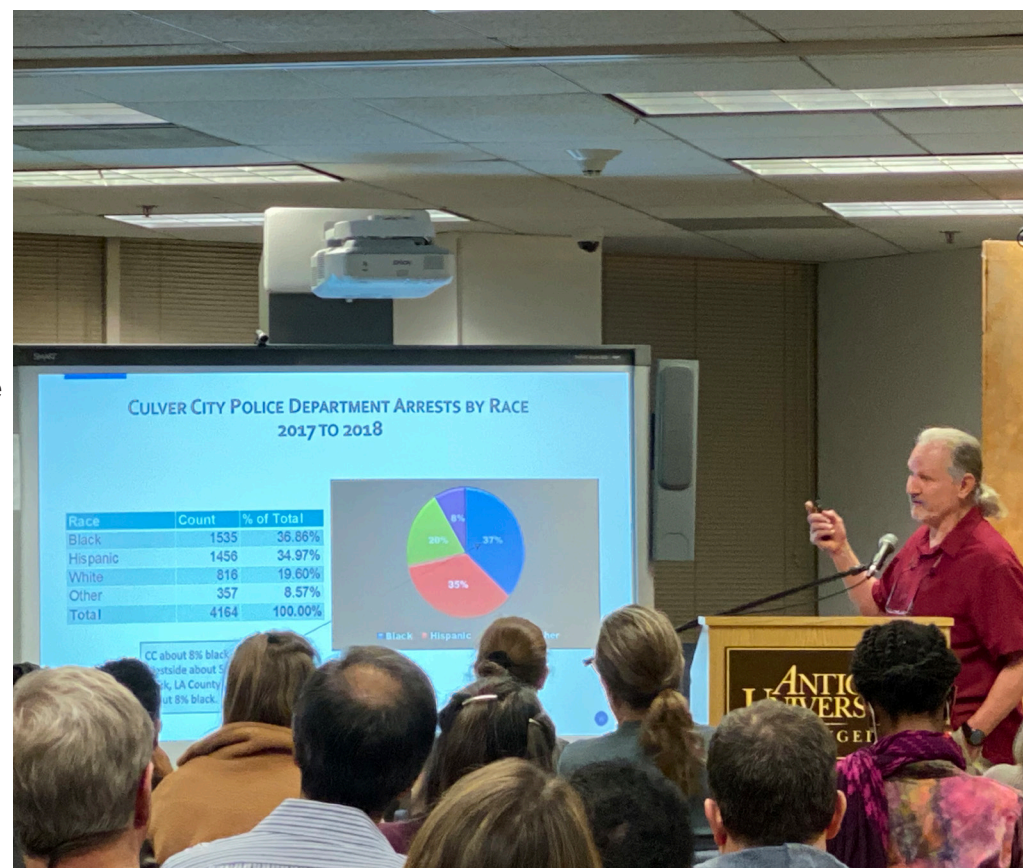
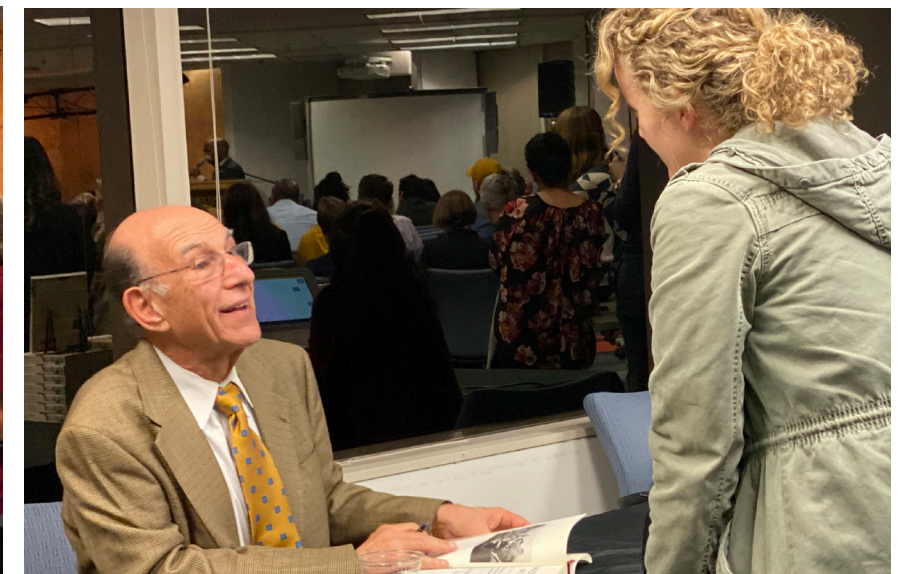
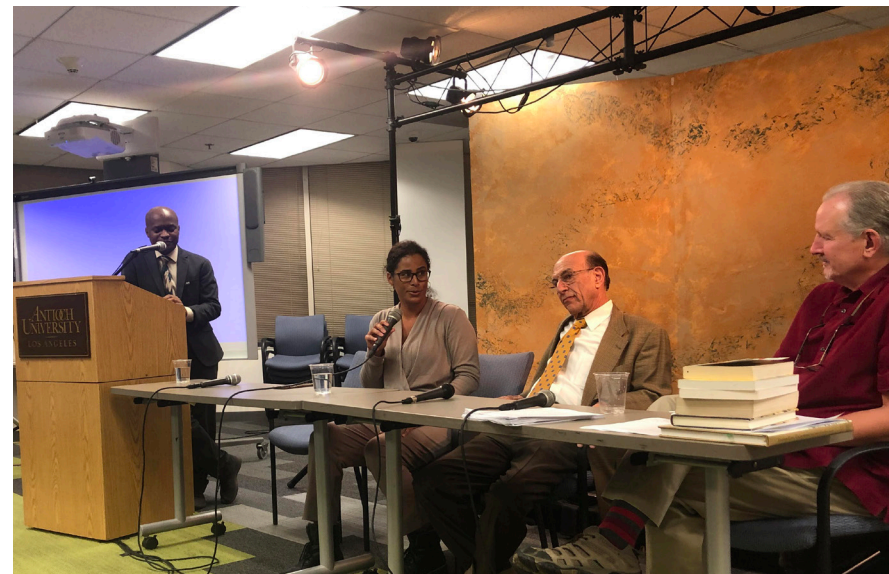
The City of Culver City is hosting an exciting Speaker Series on critical issues affecting the City, the region, and beyond. Culver City's [General Plan Update](#) will set a vision, goals, and policies around topics such as mobility, urban design, social equity, housing affordability, emergency preparedness, parking pricing, healthy communities, and much more. The entire community is invited to join in the discussion! [Access written summaries and videos for past events on the Speaker Series page.](#)

On November 21, 2019, Culver City held an event focused on 'Discriminatory Land Use Policies' at [Antioch University Los Angeles](#). Culver City resident John Kent, author of the Streetsblog LA article on "[The Hidden History of Culver City Racism](#)," spoke about Culver City's beginnings as a sundown town, an all-white municipality where segregation was enforced through both discriminatory restrictions and intimidation. He illustrated this history with early ads for the city that promoted it as a "model little white city" and discussed how Harry Culver's plans for a tract subdivision of "large residential lots with proper restrictions" provided further evidence of the intention to segregate the city.

[Richard Rothstein](#), Distinguished Fellow of the [Economic Policy Institute](#) and author of [The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America](#), positioned Culver City's history in a broader context, noting that every metropolitan area in this country is residentially segregated. He detailed the ways in which this type of segregation was created, sustained, and reinforced by federal, state, and local policies. He also discussed the consequences of segregation, which include an achievement gap between black and white students, health disparities, income disparities, political polarization, and mass incarceration. He provided policy recommendations to remedy segregation, such as building affordable housing in high-opportunity neighborhoods and abolishing zoning ordinances that limit residential construction to single-family homes on large lots. He ended with a call for a new civil rights movement to demand these changes.

In his presentation, John Kent warned that the legacy of racism in former sundown towns continues to be experienced today with inequities around policing. The impact this has on people of color navigating Culver City was illustrated by [Kelly Lytle Hernández](#) in the discussion that followed the presentations when she spoke of her own experiences and those of her two sons. Hernández is a professor of History, African American Studies, and Urban Planning at UCLA where she holds The Thomas E. Lifka Endowed Chair in History. She is also the Director of the [Ralph J. Bunch Center for African American Studies at UCLA](#), Director of [The Million Dollar Hoods](#) project, and a [2019 MacArthur Foundation Fellow](#). Her book, [City of Inmates: Conquest, Rebellion, and the Rise of Human Caging in Los Angeles, 1771-1965](#), details the ways in which policing and mass incarceration have been used as a means of controlling non-white populations in the Los Angeles area. The racial disparities in arrest data provided by Kent demonstrates the impact on our community. He spoke of the need for Culver City to address its history and offered a draft resolution to acknowledge the racism in its past, apologize for it, and make a commitment to do better in the future.

We would like to extend our appreciation to [Antioch University Los Angeles](#) for hosting and [Sprouts](#) for feeding everyone. Please join us for our next Speaker Series event, 'Healthy Communities,' on Wednesday, December 11 at 6 PM at [Exceptional Children's Foundation \(ECF\)](#). Culver City will welcome Gayle Haberman, Tom Kelly, Louise McCarthy, and Stephanie Ramirez to discuss what Culver City can do to become a healthier place to live for all. [Learn more about it and RSVP here.](#)



Stay informed at culvercity.org/speakerseries