

## Flores, Valerie

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**From:** Brita Pinkston <pastorbrita@pasadenafoursquare.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 12:59 PM  
**To:** Flores, Valerie  
**Subject:** Email for public safety committee

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Mr. Chairman, John J. Kennedy, Mr. Mayor Terry Tornek, Vice Mayor Tyron Hampton, and Council member Steve Madison:

I am writing today to express my solidarity with the community surrounding La Pintoresca park as an eye witness to the shooting on Monday night. I am the lead Pastor at the Pasadena Foursquare Church, located on 174 Harkness Ave., one block from PCC which has served in this city for 90 years. I have been a pastor in this community for 25 years and am a Pasadena native having attended Marshall and raised three children through the public-school system. I say this because I am committed to this city and have seen and experienced our city's history surrounding issues of racial disparity, tension and systemic inequities.

I was at the park on Monday evening alongside my husband David Pinkston and our youth pastor Max Boyle. We have been in the park weekly since the shooting of Anthony McClain and for over a month have been present every Monday night passing out free food, being present with the people at the park and above all praying on the hour at the Anthony McClain memorial site.

Being present has given me the opportunity to now bear witness to the truth that I have seen.

I know that this morning the Anthony McClain memorial was removed. I want to state emphatically that the Anthony McClain memorial was NOT a cause or a contributing factor to the tragic incident on Monday night. I was feet away from the shooting – and it was intense. But at no point were any of these young men (and some women) there due to the memorial. There have been false reports from Pasadena NOW that have linked the memorial and have influenced the public negatively towards the park, even inciting some to say “close it.” The sweeping away of this memorial that has represented a connecting point is a travesty.

I implore you that this is the time to connect with the community, to engage with its members in a way that can bring healing to this traumatized community. To redirect resources and to deeply listen and act upon ideas offered such as trauma counselors and jobs for the community.

Jasmine Richards came to where we were on Monday night and laid down with us and shouting to “get down pastors” and she refused to move until we were safe. We have experienced hospitality by the community members.

We need a new narrative boldly written. We need truth where we do not sweep away the violence done to Anthony McClain. We cannot wait until another shooting happens. This community needs resources, not more patrolling. This community needs police to come and to be humanly “with” the community.

We as clergy are here to support and to give our lives to healing and rebuilding this community. We need to do this together and need a show of support from this city to not further the divide but to ensure change happens.

Now is the time for change.

Rev. Brita Pinkston

Lead Pastor  
Pasadena Foursquare Church

## Flores, Valerie

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**From:** Pastor Max <pastormax@pasadenafoursquare.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 1:12 PM  
**To:** Flores, Valerie  
**Subject:** Comments for City Council Meeting regarding the Anthony McClain Memorial

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Hello Mayor Terry Tornek, Vice Mayor Tyron Hampton, John J. Kennedy, Steve Madison and Chief John Perez.

My name is Max Boyle and I am the youth pastor at Pasadena Foursquare Church. Since the police shooting that involved Anthony McClain and the PPD on August 15th 2020, I have partnered with other clergy members and others in the community to be a presence of peace at La Pintoresca Park weekly to partner with the neighborhood and those who frequent at the park during this traumatic time.

In the weeks that I have attended, the neighborhood has shown immense gratitude, hospitality and have been willing to engage in conversation with the clergies who have attended. Every hour on the hour, the clergies as well as those in the neighborhood have surrounded around the Anthony McClain memorial to pray for the neighborhood, give honor to Anthony's life and are hoping for the current strained relationship between this community and PPD to be reconciled.

To hear that the memorial has been removed this morning has been discouraging, heartbreaking and yet another triggering point of trauma for the neighborhood. The memorial represented more than just Anthony McClain's life, it represented a sense of hope that the relationship with the PPD and the residents in the North West Pasadena can be indeed mended. I am calling on Chief Perez and other city officials to not just let this incident and Anthony's life to be swept under the rug. Be part of the solution that the community is seeking.

Chief Perez, you have the opportunity to rewrite the reputation that the PPD has in the area of La Pintoresca Park. Do right by the community. Be a listener. Be willing to partner WITH the community. Be the leader that ALL the neighborhoods of Pasadena need you to be. The neighborhood around La Pintoresca has experienced immense trauma from violence, economic hardships and systematic racism that has plagued this city for generations (and at times from the hands of PPD).

As this new generation of children are being raised in Pasadena, let them experience the PPD as allies, not enemies. We need our young people to experience a sense of partnership and gratitude at the presence of the PPD, not hostility and fear of being harassed or racially profiled. Chief Perez, be part of the hope and change this community has been praying for.

Thank you,  
Pastor Max Boyle  
Pasadena Foursquare Church