

Public Comment Agenda Item 8 and 9

Nathanael S.

Camarillo Resident

5/18/2021

To Ventura Board of Supervisors, Mr. Levin, Ashley Batista, Vargas, and Mike Powers,

According to Webster's Dictionary, a conviction is "A fixed or strong belief". It is something one will not compromise on. Today, many are convicted to stand up for the rights of women, to lift them out of the pits of oppression and bring them equality with men. The need to protect women's choice has never been as desperate as today. Let us also consider the unfair treatment of the black community. As of recently, men of conviction have risen up to defend our black brothers and have marched onward with courage, declaring that black lives do matter and action is required. Let these people be acknowledged today.

But will we allow these people to be heard? The call is yours to make. Suppose a woman refuses to take the COVID-19 vaccine, will we deny her service at the supermarket? When she says, "My body, my choice" will she be oppressed and will her rights crumble away like Greek statues? What if a black man never takes the vaccine, will we drag him out of the mall and forever alienate him from society; will we refuse to hire a black brother and condemn him to poverty and look down on him as past Americans have? If protecting the rights of women and black lives are ideals we stand for, than what does a vaccine passport hold fast for?