Reviewer’s Comments to Authors

General Comments:

The paper, “A Latent Class Analysis of Psychological Sense of Community and Ethnic Identity among Young Adults of Color from the Southwestern United States” highlights an interesting but understudied question: How does the connection between psychological sense of community and ethnic identity relate to intrapersonal psychological empowerment, civic engagement and depression among young adults of color?” This paper is innovative because it expands on existing research that examines the complex relationship between psychological sense of community and ethnic identity while exploring the heterogeneity in subgroups on important aspects of human development.

Overall, this is a well-written paper with significant theoretical and conceptual contributions. Ideas presented throughout the literature review are sufficiently backed by empirical evidence. This study also contributes to the literature by centering young adults of color and applying latent class analysis to explore the research questions. Using a quantitative approach, the authors present a science of high quality and utilize data collection and analysis processes that are generally appropriate and rigorous. There is some new information in the paper to justify publication. Specifically, this work is original and further contributes to published literature. The study aim is clearly defined and appropriately answered, and the overall design of the study is mostly adequate (with further considerations that need to be applied to the sample).

Below, I offer some suggestions for the paper by section.

Introduction:

- The literature review does a good job of introducing the association between psychological sense of community and ethnic identity. It also provides sufficient background information on the relationship between psychological sense of community and ethnic identity with intrapersonal psychological empowerment, civic engagement, and depression.
- However, the link between the population of interest (i.e., racial, and ethnic minority groups) and the outcome variables (intrapersonal psychological empowerment, civic engagement, and depression) remains unclear. The reader would benefit from additional information regarding the significance of exploring these specific outcomes among racial and ethnic minorities. A clear rationale should be provided for the inclusion of these variables.
- While racial and ethnic minority groups (Hispanic/Chicano(a)/Spanish, American Indian/Native American, and African American) account for 90% of the sample, the introduction does not include sufficient information on how psychological sense of community and ethnic identity may present similarly or differently among these groups.

Methods:

- The authors report a sample of 270 but indicate that members of racial and ethnic minority groups only make up 90% of the sample. Please provide a clear rationale for
why the sub-set of White participants was retained in the analysis or re-run the analysis excluding White participants to ensure that the data presented accurately reflects the topic of the paper.

- Geographical location was not considered as a covariate. While the authors indicate that the sample was drawn from a southwestern community and city campus community, there is no indication that group difference by location was considered. Given the influences of geographic context on ethnic identity, I think the authors should test geographic location as a control.

Discussion:

- The discussion section of the paper articulates the theoretical and conceptual implications of the results. However, the practical implication of the findings for the population being studied are not indicated. The authors should include specific information on the implications of these findings for community programming.

Limitations:

- While the sample consisted of diverse minority groups, the study did not include an analysis of between group differences. In addition to citing the absence of within-group analysis as a limitation, I think that the authors need to cite the absence of between-group analysis of the racial/ethnic groups on outcomes as a limitation of the study.

References:

- Please double check that all references cited in-text also appears in the reference section.

Mechanics:

- Please re-check for grammatical errors and run-on sentences that reduce comprehension.