

RESOLUTION NO.: 64 -2020

INTRODUCED BY: Henry, Lewis, Nelson, Thomas and Ursu

A RESOLUTION DECLARING RACISM A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

WHEREAS, racism is a social system with multiple dimensions -- individual racism that is internalized or interpersonal and systemic racism that is institutional or structural, and is a system of structuring opportunity and assigning value based on the social interpretation of how one looks;

WHEREAS, race is a social construct with no biological basis;

WHEREAS, racism unfairly disadvantages specific individuals and communities, while unfairly giving advantages to other individuals and communities and saps the strength of the whole society through the waste of human resources;

WHEREAS, systemic racism is a root cause of poverty and constricts economic mobility, negatively impacting health care, criminal justice, education, housing, employment, food and nutrition, and many more issues that determine health outcomes;

WHEREAS, at this critical inflection point in American history, African Americans are confronting two crises -- the coronavirus pandemic and police violence that are disproportionately impacting their community -- and are bringing racial injustice to the forefront with peaceful demonstrations in cities and small towns in every state and around the globe;

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Medical Association and American College of Physicians have all stated that racism is a public health issue and have condemned police violence;

WHEREAS, black babies die at more than twice the rate of white babies in Ohio;

WHEREAS, black women account for 17 percent of Ohioans giving birth, but represent 34 percent of pregnancy-related deaths in Ohio;

WHEREAS, black Ohioans have an average life expectancy that is several years less than white Ohioans;

WHEREAS, certain elected officials across Ohio have repeatedly called attention to these inequities and demanded action to remedy them;

WHEREAS, U.S. Congresswoman Joyce Beatty of Ohio has offered a resolution recognizing racism as a national crisis and the need for a truth and reconciliation process;

WHEREAS, the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus, led by President Stephanie Howse, has introduced legislation to declare racism a public health crisis;

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Commissioners, Cleveland City Council, Columbus City Council, Hamilton County Commissioners, Akron City Council, Summit County Council, Toledo City Council and Lucas County Commissioners have considered or will consider resolutions to declare racism a public health crisis in their communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved by the Council of the City of Richmond Heights, State of Ohio, that:

Section 1: This Council recognizes that structural and systemic racism is embedded and entrenched in every aspect of our nation and declares unequivocally that racism is a public health crisis.

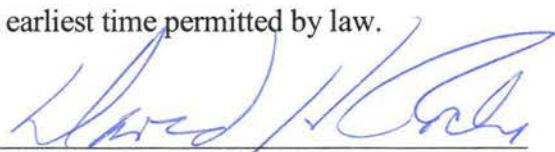
Section 2: This Council calls on the President of the United States, Ohio's federal and state elected officials, local elected officials, including the elected officials of this City, to join in this Council's declaration and to establish equity in all federal, state, and local laws and policies.

Section 3: The Clerk of Council is directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the President of the United States, U.S. Senators Brown and Portman, U.S. Congressperson Fudge, State Senator Yuko, State Representative Smith, Governor DeWine, County Councilperson Simon, and County Executive Budish.

Section 4: This Council finds and determines that all formal actions of this Council and any of its committees concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public, all in compliance with the law including R.C. Section 121.22.

Section 5: This Resolution shall be effective at the earliest time permitted by law.

PASSED: June 23, 2020


David H. Roche, Mayor

APPROVED: June 23, 2020

ATTEST: Betsy Traben
Betsy Traben
Clerk of Council


Eloise Cotton-Henry
President of Council