



City of Cincinnati

801 Plum Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Agenda - Final-revised

Equity, Inclusion, Youth, & The Arts Committee

Chairperson Chris Seelbach
Vice Chair Greg Landsman
Councilmember David Mann
Councilmember P.G. Sittenfeld
Councilmember Jan-Michele Kearney

Tuesday, August 4, 2020

4:00 PM

Council Chambers, Room 300

PRESENTATIONS

Apple Street Senior Project- Nest
BOLD- Jenny Berg

Appointed-Holly Hankinson

Masks We Wear Project- Sara Vance & Leslie Daly

1. [202000998](#) RESOLUTION, submitted by Andrew W. Garth, Interim City Solicitor, on July 30, 2020, EXPRESSING Cincinnati City Council's belief that racism is a public health crisis in the City of Cincinnati; and further EXPRESSING City Council's commitment to improving the quality of life and health of the City's minority residents.

Sponsors: Sittenfeld, Kearney and Young

Attachments: [TRANSMITTAL](#)
[RESOLUTION](#)


SUPPLEMENTAL

2. [202001003](#) ORDINANCE, (EMERGENCY), submitted by Andrew W. Garth, Interim City Solicitor, on July 31, 2020. ESTABLISHING the Racial Equity In Policy Task Force ("Task Force"), a joint effort of the City of Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Health Department, which shall have the mission of making recommendations to the Mayor and City Council regarding policy recommendations for the dismantling of systemic and institutional racism, and determining how best to promote racial equity throughout the City of Cincinnati; and DETERMINING that the task force shall recommend to the Mayor and City Council policy proposals addressing minority health inequities, including using a systematic and data-driven focus on poverty, economic mobility, and other factors that impact the social determinants of health impacting racial inequities in our community.

Attachments: [TRANSMITTAL](#)
[EMERGENCY ORDINANCE](#)

ADJOURNMENT

Date: July 30, 2020

To: Councilmember P.G. Sittenfeld, Jan-Michele Kearney, and Wendell Young
From: Andrew W. Garth, Interim City Solicitor 
Subject: **Resolution – Racism as a Public Health Crisis**

Transmitted herewith is a resolution captioned as follows:

EXPRESSING Cincinnati City Council's belief that racism is a public health crisis in the City of Cincinnati; and further **EXPRESSING** City Council's commitment to improving the quality of life and health of the City's minority residents.

AWG/CZM/(Ink)
Attachment
317386

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2020

EXPRESSING Cincinnati City Council’s belief that racism is a public health crisis in the City of Cincinnati; and further **EXPRESSING** City Council’s commitment to improving the quality of life and health of the City’s minority residents.

WHEREAS, racism is a social power system, with no biological basis, and acts on systemic, institutional, and interpersonal levels, and the impact of this power system is that racism grants social advantages to some while stripping those advantages from others; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control, the U.S. Office of Disease Prevention, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Public Health Association, the Health Policy Institute of Ohio, the American Anthropological Association, the American Psychological Association, Cradle Cincinnati, and virtually all evidence-based organizations assert that racism in America negatively impacts the public health outcomes of minority citizens; and

WHEREAS, systemic racism causes and perpetuates institutional and interpersonal discrimination and disparate outcomes in many areas of life, including housing, education, employment, transportation, health, and criminal justice; and

WHEREAS, racism not only disadvantages minority communities, it is well documented that racism weakens society as a whole as the collective success of our entire community is detrimentally limited when Black communities in particular, and also Brown and Immigrant communities, are left out of the opportunities available to others; and

WHEREAS, the Urban League of Southwestern Ohio highlights the historical inequities that have been and continue to be driven by racism in its “Tale of Two Cities” report, stating that “Cincinnati’s Black residents experience dramatically higher unemployment rates, have lower average household income, are more likely to live in neighborhoods with low performing schools and experience disproportionately higher incarceration rates”; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control has stated that “The conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life, including economic policies and systems, development agendas, social norms, social policies, and political systems” and these social determinants of health are all affected by racism in our local community and beyond; and

WHEREAS, data from the Cincinnati Health Department documents the average life expectancy can vary dramatically for minority residents in comparison to white residents, and infant mortality rates are double for Black residents in comparison to white residents; and

WHEREAS, Cradle Cincinnati has clearly documented that “a Black baby born today has nearly the same chance of survival as a White baby born 50 years ago, despite five decades of technological advancement”; and

WHEREAS, Cradle Cincinnati has further articulated, “We will not be successful in lowering the Hamilton County infant mortality rate without a broader fight for racial equity”; and

WHEREAS, a public health crisis may encompass three key criteria: an exigent situation, calamitous anticipated or potential harm, and harm that cannot be avoided through ordinary procedures; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cincinnati has committed itself to fighting and addressing inequities within its own system, by adopting a “Health in All Policies” framework; instituting minority business inclusion requirements; implementing ongoing reforms to police-community relations; changing its bail practices for offenses prosecuted by the City of Cincinnati’s Law Department; providing financial support for minority-owned businesses; and repealing outdated criminalization of drug offenses; and more -- but also recognizes that much more action is critically necessary; and

WHEREAS, City Council stands with the residents of Cincinnati, and its partners at the Cincinnati Health Department and the Center for Closing the Health Gap, in their declaration of racism as a public health crisis; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That City Council asserts that racism is a public health crisis affecting our entire City.

Section 2. That City Council seeks to promote equity through all legislative policies enacted by City Council; is committed to addressing and dismantling racism and how it affects the delivery of human and social services, economic development, and public safety; and will work to solidify alliances and partnerships with external partners that confront racism and will encourage other local, state, regional, and national entities to recognize racism as a public health crisis.

Section 3. That City Council expresses its commitment to honestly and directly addressing minority health inequities, including implementing a systematic, data-driven focus on poverty, economic mobility, and other factors that impact the social determinants of health impacting inequities in many areas, including but not limited to crime, social capital, education,

transportation, employment, food access, health behaviors, socioeconomic status, environmental exposure, access to health services, housing, and public safety.

Section 4. That City Council will take action to establish a task force made up of community leaders and health professionals whose mission is dismantling systemic and institutional racism and determining how best to promote racial equity throughout the City of Cincinnati, and that such task force would provide guidance to City Council on health-equity focused policy proposals such as: new investments in group prenatal care; mandatory lead-testing and lead-abatement of residential properties at time of property transfer; conversion of vacant or available property for urban farming and agriculture to eradicate food deserts; and the creation of a publicly accessible glossary of terms and definitions concerning racism and health equity.

Section 5. That City Council expresses its intention to expand and strengthen City policies that promote community engagement; to provide tools for City systems to engage actively and authentically with communities of color; to support continuing to work to build alliances with organizations that have a legacy and track record of confronting racism; and to engage community partners and stakeholders in the education, employment, housing, and criminal justice and safety areas to recognize racism as a public health crisis.

Section 6. That City Council expresses its support for using a racial equity lens to assess City policies and practices, including in contexts such as hiring, promotion, leadership appointments, and funding, to the extent legally permissible.

Section 7. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that the offices of Councilmember P.G. Sittenfeld, Councilmember Jan-Michele Kearney, and Councilmember Wendell Young will transmit copies of this resolution to the Cincinnati NAACP, the Urban League of Southwestern Ohio, United Way of Greater Cincinnati, Cradle Cincinnati, the Center for

Department Board of Health, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, University of Cincinnati Medical Center, the Cincinnati Board of Education, the YWCA, Hamilton County Board of Commissioners, and All-In Cincinnati.

Passed: _____, 2020

John Cranley, Mayor

Attest: _____

Clerk

Submitted by Councilmembers Sittenfeld, Kearney, and Young

Date: July 31, 2020

To: Councilmember P.G. Sittenfeld
From: Andrew W. Garth, Interim City Solicitor *AWG*
Subject: **Emergency Ordinance – Racial Equity Task Force**

Transmitted herewith is an emergency ordinance captioned as follows:

ESTABLISHING the Racial Equity In Policy Task Force (“Task Force”), a joint effort of the City of Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Health Department, which shall have the mission of making recommendations to the Mayor and City Council regarding policy recommendations for the dismantling of systemic and institutional racism, and determining how best to promote racial equity throughout the City of Cincinnati; and **DETERMINING** that the Task Force shall recommend to the Mayor and City Council policy proposals addressing minority health inequities, including using a systematic and data-driven focus on poverty, economic mobility, and other factors that impact the social determinants of health impacting racial inequities in our community.

AWG/KKF/(lnk)
Attachment
318811



EMERGENCY

City of Cincinnati

KKF

AWL

An Ordinance No. _____

- 2020

ESTABLISHING the Racial Equity In Policy Task Force (“Task Force”), a joint effort of the City of Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Health Department, which shall have the mission of making recommendations to the Mayor and City Council regarding policy recommendations for the dismantling of systemic and institutional racism, and determining how best to promote racial equity throughout the City of Cincinnati; and **DETERMINING** that the Task Force shall recommend to the Mayor and City Council policy proposals addressing minority health inequities, including using a systematic and data-driven focus on poverty, economic mobility, and other factors that impact the social determinants of health impacting racial inequities in our community.

WHEREAS, the goal of the Racial Equity In Policy Task Force (“Task Force”) is to recommend to the Mayor and City Council policy proposals addressing minority health inequities, including using a systematic and data-driven focus on poverty, economic mobility, and other factors that impact the social determinants of health impacting inequities in many areas, including but not limited to crime, social capital, education, transportation, employment, food access, health behaviors, socioeconomic status, environmental exposure, access to health services, housing, and public safety; and

WHEREAS, the membership of the Task Force shall be appointed by City Council and consist of at least 13 members and shall include the Cincinnati Health Commissioner, Ms. Renee Mahaffey Harris, and one representative from each of the following entities: African American Chamber of Commerce; All In Coalition; National Action Network; Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Community Economic Advancement Initiative; Cincinnati Medical Association; Sentinel Police Association; Cincinnati African American Firefighters Association; Black Nurses Association of Greater Cincinnati; Cincinnati NAACP; Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio; and at City Council’s own discretion, other persons or representatives from additional entities; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force shall make specific recommendations in the following areas: new investments in group prenatal care; mandatory lead-testing and lead-abatement of residential properties at the time of property transfer; conversion of vacant or available property for urban farming and agriculture to eradicate food deserts; and other areas at the Task Force's own discretion consistent with its mission; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force shall create a publicly accessible glossary of terms and definitions concerning racism and health equity; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of the Task Force is in accordance with the “Live” goal to “provide a full spectrum of housing options, and improve housing quality and affordability” as

described on pages 164-168 of Plan Cincinnati (2012); the “Collaborate” goal to “work in synergy with the Cincinnati community” as well as the strategy to “unite our communities” as described on pages 209-212 of Plan Cincinnati (2012); the “Sustain” goal to “become a healthier Cincinnati” and the strategies to “decrease mortality and chronic and acute diseases” and “make sustainable access to fresh, healthy food a priority in all neighborhoods” as described on pages 181-186 of Plan Cincinnati (2012); now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That City Council hereby establishes the Racial Equity In Policy Task Force (“Task Force”), a joint effort of the City of Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Health Department, which shall have the mission of making recommendations to the Mayor and City Council regarding policy recommendations for the dismantling of systemic and institutional racism.

Section 2. That the goal of the Task Force is to recommend to the Mayor and City Council policy proposals addressing minority health inequities, including a using a systematic and data-driven focus on poverty, economic mobility, and other factors that impact the social determinants of health impacting racial inequities.

Section 3. That the Task Force shall consist of at least 13 members appointed by City Council representing the community at large who have knowledge and/or experience in as many of the following fields as possible: racial equality, human rights, crime, social capital, education, transportation, employment, food access, health behaviors, socioeconomic status, environmental exposure, access to health services, housing, and public safety.

Section 4. That the membership of the Task Force shall include the Cincinnati Health Commissioner, with the consent of the Board of Health, and one named representative from each of the following entities: African American Chamber of Commerce; All In Coalition; National Action Network; Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Community Economic Advancement Initiative; Cincinnati Medical Association; Sentinel Police Association; Cincinnati African American Firefighters Association; Black Nurses Association of Greater Cincinnati;

Cincinnati NAACP; Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio; and at and at City Council's own discretion, other persons or representatives from additional entities.

Section 5. That the initial appointment of the Task Force shall include Ms. Renee Mahaffey Harris as a member to serve a term of two years.

Section 6. That for the initial appointment of the Task Force, seven members shall serve an initial term of two years, and the remaining members shall serve an initial term of one year, commencing with their date of appointment. After the expiration of their initial term all members shall serve two-year terms so terms are staggered. Members shall serve on the Task Force until a replacement is appointed by Council, even if a member serves beyond the end of a term.

Section 7. That the Task Force shall make specific recommendations in the following areas: new investments in group prenatal care; mandatory lead-testing and lead-abatement of residential properties at the time of property transfer; conversion of vacant or available property to be used for urban farming and agriculture to eradicate food deserts; and other areas at the Task Force's discretion consistent with its mission.

Section 8. That the Task Force shall convene no later than 90 days after the effective date of this ordinance and the approval of all initial appointments, and shall report back to the Mayor and City Council within six months of its initial meeting to present a status report and any recommendations. The Task Force should present a report recommending policy and budget priorities, implementation, and monitoring to Council at least annually.

Section 9. That the Task Force shall create a publicly accessible glossary of terms and definitions concerning racism and health equity.

Section 10. That the City Manager is hereby authorized to take all appropriate steps to ensure that City departments provide appropriate support to the Task Force, including carrying out such legislative policies as Council enacts based on the recommendations of the Task Force.

Section 11. That this ordinance shall be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and general welfare and shall, subject to the terms of Article II, Section 6 of the Charter, be effective immediately. The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to ensure that the formation and implementation of the Racial Equity Task Force can take place as quickly as possible.

Passed: _____, 2020

John Cranley, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk