

CMZ
AWB

RESOLUTION NO. 40 - 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.

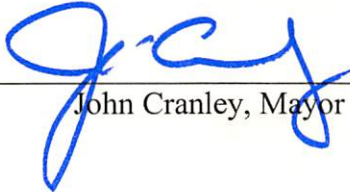
Section 5. That City Council expresses its intention to expand and strengthen City policies that promote community engagement; to provide tools for City systems to engage actively and authentically with communities of color; to support continuing to work to build alliances with organizations that have 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.

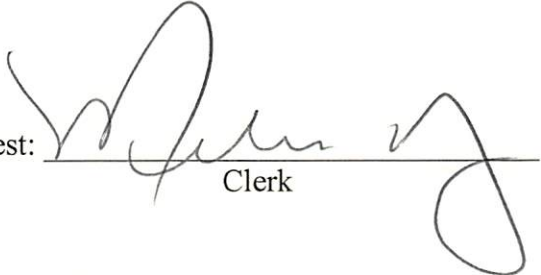
Section 7. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that the offices of Councilmember P.G. Sittenfeld, Councilmember Jan-Michele Kearney, and Councilmember Wendell Young will transmit copies of this resolution to the Cincinnati NAACP, the Urban League of Southwestern Ohio, United 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: August 5, 2020



John Cranley, Mayor

Attest: 

Clerk

Submitted by Councilmembers Sittenfeld, Kearney, and Young