



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

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TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: JUNE 30, 2020

FROM: COUNCILWOMAN PLASCENCIA WARDS: ALL

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION DECLARING RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

ISSUE:

Adopt a resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council adopt the attached resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis.

BACKGROUND:

In light of recent worldwide events, it is imperative that the City of Riverside take a stand to declare racism as a public health crisis affecting our entire City. The resolution's tenants challenge the Mayor, City Council, and staff to:

- Continue to identify specific activities to further enhance diversity and to ensure anti-racism principles across the City's leadership, staffing, and contracting;
- Promote equity through all policies approved by the City Council;
- Enhance educational efforts aimed at understanding, addressing, and dismantling racism and how it affects the delivery of human and social services, economic development, and public safety;
- Continue to advocate locally and at the State and Federal level for relevant policies that improve health in communities of color and supports local, State, and Federal initiatives that advance efforts to dismantle systemic racism;
- Work to solidify alliances and partnerships with other organizations that are confronting racism and encourage other local, State, regional, and National entities to recognize racism as a public health crisis;
- Support community efforts to amplify issues of racism and engage actively and authentically with communities of color within the City, County, State, and Country;
- Always promote and support policies that prioritize the health of all people, especially people of color by mitigating exposure to adverse childhood experiences;
- Institute mandatory racial equity training and implicit bias training with the goal of reaching all City of Riverside leadership and staff in a timely manner;
- Encourage racial equity training among all community partners, grantees, vendors, and contractors; and
- Identify clear goals and objectives including periodic reports to the City Council, to assess, progress, and capitalize on opportunities to further advance racial equity.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with adoption of this resolution.

Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Prepared by:



GABY PLASCENCIA
Councilwoman, Ward 5

Attachments: Resolution