

Date: 6-30-20  
Item No.: 14

**From:** Josiah Bruny <[jbruny@musicchanginglives.org](mailto:jbruny@musicchanginglives.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 4:40 PM  
**To:** Bailey, Rusty <[RBailey@riversideca.gov](mailto:RBailey@riversideca.gov)>; Nicol, Colleen <[CNicol@riversideca.gov](mailto:CNicol@riversideca.gov)>; Coronado, Edward <[ECoronado@riversideca.gov](mailto:ECoronado@riversideca.gov)>  
**Subject:** [External] Declare Racism A Public Health Crisis

Dear, Honorable Mayor Bailey,

I am writing asking for your support of this proposed resolution as it will help us to continue to build more peaceful communities in Riverside, as we've done for years. With your support and the support of other community members like you, we will continue to help our children, students, families, and community live more peaceful lives with healthy and vibrant relationships.

I pray you will join us in proclaiming racism a public health crisis along with Councilmember Gabriela Plascencia, I'm reaching out to you as a concerned business owner and a friend and I look forward to hearing from you sir.

Sincerely,

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Josiah Bruny  
Music Changing Lives  
CEO  
[www.MusicChangingLives.org](http://www.MusicChangingLives.org)  
951-992-0721

cc Mayor  
City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney  
ACMs  
DCM



June 18, 2020

Honorable Mayor Bailey,

I am writing this letter in order to strongly urge you to join Music Changing Lives, NAACP San Bernardino, One Inland Empire which represents 28 organizations and countless other community groups and residents to not only support, but to sponsor the resolution being introduced by Councilwoman Gabriela Plascencia declaring racism a public health crisis in the City of Riverside. The burden of racism rests heavily on the health care system and public health.

We know that Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) face systemic barriers to accessing health care and being listened to or heard in and out of our healthcare system. We also know that COVID-19 is having a disproportionate impact on BIPOC with Riverside County seeing alarmingly increasing numbers. BIPOC Americans are more likely to develop COVID-19 and have a higher rate of hospitalization, mechanical ventilation and death. In addition, the disproportionate economic impact on black and brown communities, including greater rates of job losses, and the public health crises of the coronavirus exacerbate health, educational, and economic losses for already vulnerable populations.

As our community grapples with the ways in which racism as a determinant of health affects the lives and opportunities of Black, Indigenous, People of Color in our city, it is our responsibility to ensure that we take the appropriate steps to dismantle racism at its core, and begin to take steps to address it for what it is: a public health crisis. Moreover, it is imperative that the City of Riverside reaffirms its commitment to enact equity in all policies within the City of Riverside.

Sincerely,

Josiah Bruny  
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