

RECORD OF RESOLUTION

Date Presented 08/11/2020

Sponsor - Council members Tennant and Daniels

Resolution
Ordinance No.

06-20

Date Passed 8/11/2020, 2020

A RESOLUTION DECLARING RACISM A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS IN LITHOPOLIS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY;

WHEREAS, racism is rooted in the foundation of America, beginning with chattel slavery in 1619; much of the Black experience in America has been endured under slavery and Jim Crow which allowed preferential opportunities for some while subjecting people of color to hardships and disadvantages in every area of life; and

WHEREAS, health disparities have existed in America for more than 400 years - we now are witnessing a coronavirus pandemic which is shining a stark light upon the long-running racial divide - Black patients are dying in larger-than-expected, record numbers, COVID-19 is killing Black people at 2.4 times the rate of white people and Black people are disproportionately suffering in-part due to long standing, unaddressed health disparities as well as systematic racism and other socioeconomic inequities; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization defines "public health" as "the art and science of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organized efforts of society" and those efforts that "aim to provide condition under which people can....be healthy and improve their health", and

WHEREAS, there is clear data to illustrate that racism negatively impacts the lives of Black people in the Columbus metro area - the current COVID- 19 crisis has helped to highlight now, more than ever, that racism, not race causes disproportionately higher rates of homelessness, incarceration, and economic hardships for African Americans - racism can be seen across systemic, institutional and interpersonal levels - all operating over the course of time and across generations; and

WHEREAS, the negative repercussions of historical racism, including but not limited to discriminatory lending practices of the 20th century known as "redlining" and the current limitations and access to healthy, nutritious food, reduced life expectancy, increased rates of lead poisoning, limited access to clean water, and higher rates of infant mortality demonstrate the current impact of racism; and

WHEREAS, in Ohio, from 2013 to 2019, 37 percent of people killed by police in Ohio were black, in a state where black people make up only 12 percent of the population, making "Ohio a top 10 worst state for racial disparities in police killings and constitutes a bigger disparity than all of its neighboring states", and

WHEREAS, Council recognizes that not everyone in Lithopolis has the same opportunities to be healthy; there are differences in health based on race, ethnicity, sex, neighborhood, income, education, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other factors; further research has shown that the neighborhood that one lives in, ones access to quality housing, a good job, and a good education has a greater impact on ones health than does genetics or access to care; it is also understood that Black people are not thriving at the same rates as their white counterparts in these areas; and

WHEREAS, the poverty rate in Lithopolis for minorities is 15.63% compared to 1.35% for whites, and

WHEREAS, the members of the Lithopolis Village Council have steadfastly supported efforts that focus on improving the quality of life and equity for each Lithopolis resident - these efforts include fair housing support, ongoing support for economic development and the environment, support for working families and increasing economic opportunities, supporting veterans and safe communities, ensuring absolute transparency and equity in the legal treatment of Lithopolis residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, Council holds the responsibility to address racism which includes reshaping our discourse and agenda to enable us all to actively engage in racial justice work addressing racial disparities; and

WHEREAS, Council supports the recent resolution drafted by the Franklin County Board of Commissioners declaring "Racism as a Public Health Crisis;" because we recognize that racism is real and as a community we have to work together to promote equity and eradicate racism - moreover this Council believes that it is now time to declare racism a public health crisis in our community; because the

disparities that we have outlined represent a public health crisis which affects us all, and we as a civil society have an obligation to raise awareness and make sure that every sector of our society work to reverse this crisis; and

WHEREAS, this Council urges every sector of our society to declare these disparities as a public health crisis and to immediately take steps to address, fund, and support areas that strategically reduce the long term impact of the Social Determinants of Health for at risk communities - this includes reducing and eliminating preferential treatment for the majority while subjecting people of color to increased hardships, now therefore,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF LITHOPOLIS, FAIRFIELD COUNTY, STATE OF OHIO;

Section 1. Council hereby declare racism as a public health crisis in the Village of Lithopolis and recommit our full attention to improving the quality of life and health of our minority residents.

Section 2. Council is committed to honestly and directly addressing minority health inequities, including a systematic, data-driven focus on poverty, economic mobility, and other factors that impact the social determinants of health.

Section 3. Council resolves to advocate locally and through the National Association of Counties and the Ohio Municipal League for relevant policies that support local, state, regional, and federal initiatives that advance efforts to dismantle systemic racism.

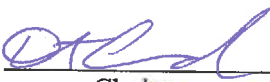
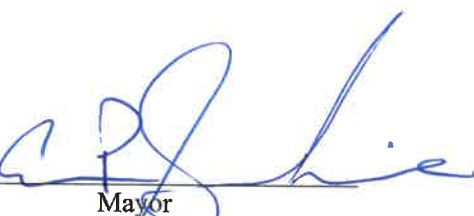
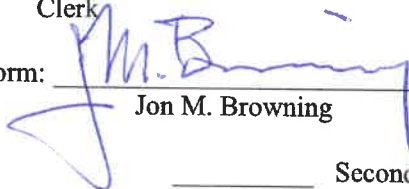
Section 4. Council supports community efforts to amplify issues of racism.

Section 5. Council encourages the administration to pursue racial equity training with the goal of reaching all Village of Lithopolis leadership and staff.

Section 6. Council encourage racial equity training among all community partners, grantees, vendors, and contractors.

Section 7. Council joins the Ohio cities/counties of Akron, Canton, Cleveland, Columbus, Cuyahoga County, Dayton, Elyria, Franklin County, Hamilton County, Lima, Lorain County, Montgomery County, Piqua, South Euclid, Summit County, Warren and Youngstown in declaring racism a public health crisis.

Section 8. This ordinance is hereby declared an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety, and welfare in that Council recognizes that racism is a public health crisis and this resolution shall be in full force and effect at the earliest date provided by law.

Attest/Date:  8-11-20 Clerk
Signed/Date  8-11-20 Mayor
Approved as to form:  Jon M. Browning
First Reading Second Reading
Revised Second Reading Third Reading
VOTE FOR 6 AGAINST 0