



200233

RESOLUTION NO: \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENTED: 6-01-20

ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_

**JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE FLINT CITY COUNCIL  
DECLARING RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS**

**BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL:**

**WHEREAS**, racism is a system of structuring opportunity and assigning value based on race<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, racism unfairly disadvantages specific individuals and communities, while unfairly giving advantages to other individuals and communities.<sup>2</sup> The system of racism undermines the realization of the full potential of our whole society through the waste of human resources,<sup>3</sup> and the City of Flint's collective prosperity depends upon the equitable access to opportunity for every resident regardless of the color of their skin; and

**WHEREAS**, racism causes persistent discrimination and disparate outcomes in many areas of life, including housing, education, employment and criminal justice; and an emerging body of research demonstrates that racism itself is a social determinant of health<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, According to Black Enterprise, as of April 2020, the U.S. economy lost 20.5 million jobs, and the unemployment rate for African American workers doubled to 16.7%, the highest rate since 2010. The coronavirus pandemic hit African Americans and Latinos harder than any other race.<sup>5</sup> In April 2020, the Michigan Unemployment Rate was 22.7%, up from 4.3% in March 2020. <sup>6</sup> African Americans in Flint experience poverty at a rate of 43.66%<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Jones C.P. Confronting Institutionalized Racism. Phylon. 2002; 50(1/2): 10

<sup>2</sup> Jones C.P. Confronting Institutionalized Racism. Phylon. 2002; 50(1/2): 9-10

<sup>3</sup> Jones C.P. Confronting Institutionalized Racism. Phylon. 2002; 50(1/2): 9

<sup>4</sup> Flynn, A., Holmberg, S., Warren, D., and Wong, F. REWRITE the Racial

<sup>5</sup> Major, Derek, Black Enterprise, Black unemployment rate more than doubles to 16.7% in April, May 8, 2020

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

<sup>7</sup> World Population Review

**WHEREAS**, the City is committed to the elimination of racial disparities in the criminal justice system, to prioritize racial equity in our decision making processes, to acknowledge that communities of color have borne the burdens of inequitable social, environmental, economic, and criminal justice policies practices and investments, to understand that the legacy of these inequitable policies has caused deep disparities, harm, and mistrust, and to recognize that racial equity is realized when and only when race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the 2017 Michigan BRFS Estimates, 21.3% African-Americans (Black) between the ages of 18-49 had fair or poor general health and 39.5% those age 50 or older had fair or poor general health, while 12% of Caucasian (White) between the ages of 18-49 had fair or poor general health and 20.8% of those age 50 or older had fair or poor general health. 24.9% of African-Americans (Black) males' general health was fair or poor and 32.6% of females general health was fair or poor, while 16.7% of Caucasian (White) males general health was fair or poor and 16.7% of females general health was fair or poor. 36.2% of African-Americans (Black) with a high school education or less general health had fair or poor general health and 21.1% those with some college or more had fair or poor general health, while 24.0% of Caucasian (White) with a high school education or less general health had fair or poor general health and 12% of those with some college or more had fair or poor general health. 38.5% of African-Americans (Black) with household income of \$35,000 or less general health had fair or poor general health and 14.8% of those with household income of \$35,000 or more had health was fair or poor general health, while 30% of Caucasian (White) with household income of \$35,000 or less general health had fair or poor general health and 10.1% of those with household income of \$35,000 or more had fair or poor general health, demonstrating the disparity in health; and

**WHEREAS**, a contemporary example of such disparity is highlighted by the coronavirus data. According to the Michigan Coronavirus website, African American's made up 31% of the State of Michigan's overall confirmed cases and 40% of deceased cases that suggest African Americans are dying at a disproportionately higher rate from the disease; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 100 studies have linked racism to worse health outcomes<sup>8</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and the City Councilmembers stands with the residents of Flint in their declaration of racism as a public health crisis.

---

<sup>8</sup> Institute of Medicine. Unequal Treatment. <https://www.nap.edu/read/10260/chapter/2#7>. May 2, 2020. American Public Health Association. Racism and Health. Available

**IT IS RESOLVED** that the Mayor and the Flint City Council do all things necessary and declare racist a public health crisis affecting Flint, Michigan, the United States of American and the world.

**IT IS RESOLVED** that the Mayor and the Flint City Council do all things necessary work to progress antiracism principles across the City of Flint, its leadership, staffing, contracting, public servants and its community.

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and the Flint City Council do all things necessary promote equity through all policies approved by the Flint City Council and 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.

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and the Flint City Council do all things necessary continue to advocate locally and throughout the City, County, the State of Michigan and the Country for relevant policies that improve health in communities of color, and supports local, state, regional, and federal initiatives that advance efforts to dismantle systemic racism.

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and the Flint City Council do all things necessary to further 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 and to support community efforts to amplify issues of racism and engage actively and authentically with communities of color wherever they live.

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and the Flint City Council do all things necessary to promote and support policies that prioritize the health of all people, especially people of color by mitigating exposure to adverse childhood experiences.

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and the Flint City Council do all things necessary and implement racial equity training with the goal of reaching all and encourage racial equity training among all community partners, grantees, vendors and contractors.

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and the Flint City Council do all things necessary identify clear goals and objectives, to assess progress and capitalize on

opportunities to further advance racial equity; and

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and the Flint City Council do all things necessary to supports all additional efforts in the City of Flint, Genesee County, the State of Michigan, and nationwide to address racism and public health disparities due to racial inequities; and,

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and the Flint City Council do all things necessary to call upon the Governor, the Speaker of the Michigan House, and the Michigan Senate President to join with us to declare racism as a public health crisis and to enact equity in all policies of the state of Michigan.

**FOR THE CITY OF FLINT:**

**APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL:**

---

**Sheldon A. Neeley, Mayor**

---

**Monica Galloway, City Council President**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

---

**Angela Wheeler, Chief Legal Officer**