

RECORD OF RESOLUTIONS
City of Grandview Heights

Resolution No. 11-2020

Passed August 3, 2020

A Resolution to declare racism as a public health crisis and to recommit to improving the quality of the life, safety and health of the City of Grandview Heights' residents, workers and visitors who are African American and people of color.

WHEREAS, racism has a long history in the foundation of America, beginning with chattel slavery in 1619 and including the slavery trade and Jim Crow laws which allowed preferential opportunities for some while subjecting African Americans to hardships and disadvantages in every area of life; and

WHEREAS, even though Jim Crow laws have been abolished, the existence of institutionalized and individual racism continues to cause disproportionately higher rates of homelessness, incarceration, and economic hardships for African-Americans, and has also been systemically or institutionally perpetuated through practices such as restrictive covenants in deeds, discriminatory lending practices, and redlining, which have a disparate impact on African Americans and other historically marginalized groups who wish to achieve the dream of home ownership; and

WHEREAS, the history of school funding in the United States, including in Ohio, has perpetuated racial disparity in education; and

WHEREAS, incidents of inappropriate use of force by law enforcement personnel against African-Americans have resulted in the recent deaths of Mr. George Floyd in Minneapolis, and Ms. Breonna Taylor in Louisville. Other racially motivated crimes by citizens such as the killing of Mr. Ahmad Arbery in Brunswick, Georgia demonstrate that many African Americans experience discriminatory interactions with law enforcement in this country; and

WHEREAS, racial health disparities have existed in America for more than 400 years, resulting in negative outcomes that include a lack of general health and well-being, reduced access to medical care, and higher incidences of chronic disease and mortality for African Americans and other historically marginalized groups; and

WHEREAS, the coronavirus pandemic has shined a stark light upon the long-running racial health divide in our state and country, with African American Ohioans making up 30% of COVID-19 hospitalizations despite representing only 13% of Ohio's population, and African Americans disproportionately experiencing worse health in part due to longstanding, unaddressed health disparities and systemic racism in the healthcare system and other socioeconomic inequities; and

WHEREAS, further research has shown that the neighborhood or zip code that one lives in, one's access to quality housing, clean water, healthful food, a good job, and a good education have a greater impact on one's health than does genetics or access to care, and that, as a result, African Americans and other historically marginalized groups are not thriving at the same rates

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as their white counterparts in these areas; and

WHEREAS, the privileges that white Americans experience inhibit them from fully appreciating how racism impacts people of color in America on a daily basis, be it simple acts such as walking in neighborhoods, going to a park, applying for a job, purchasing a home or car, or raising a family, all come with barriers that white Americans don't normally experience; and

WHEREAS, the Grandview Heights City Council supports the May 19, 2020 resolution issued by the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, declaring "Racism as a Public Health Crisis", and hereby recognizes that racism is real and pervasive in our culture and across institutions such that the community must collectively work to dismantle it so as to promote equity, inclusion and diversity; and

WHEREAS, City Council believes that declaring racism a public health crisis is a step toward helping to address a public health crisis that affects all Americans, and that a civil society has an obligation to work to reverse this crisis by dismantling systems of oppression; and

WHEREAS, City Council urges every sector of the community to declare race-based 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, including reducing and eliminating preferential treatment or practices that subject African Americans and other historically marginalized groups to increased hardships.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS, OHIO, THAT:

Section 1. This Council does hereby declare racism a public health crisis and is committed to improving the quality of life and health of the City's residents, employees and visitors who are African American and people of color.

Section 2. The City is committed to continuing to periodically assess its practices, systems, structures and policies to ensure they are equitable, inclusive and constitutional, and to support ways in which it can, together or in partnership with others, promote opportunities for maximizing diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Section 3. City Council commits to developing and fostering an anti-racist, diverse and inclusive community for the health and well-being of our community members, especially our African-American community members and community members of color. .

Section 4. City Council commits to making 2021 a "Year of Racial Justice Learning", with planning to commence in the summer and fall of 2020, by partnering with the Grandview Heights public library, school district, Board of Health, and community members to plan a series

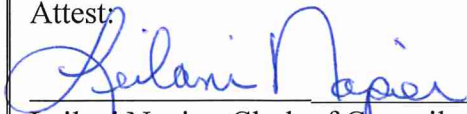
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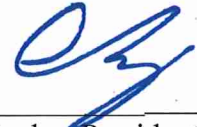
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of educational events focusing on a history of racial injustice in the United States, Ohio and Grandview Heights specifically as well as present day racial injustices across the nation.


Attest:


Leilani Napier, Clerk of Council


Emily A. Keeler, President
Grandview Heights City Council

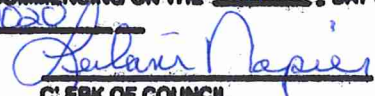
Approved as to form:


Marie-Joëlle C. Khouzam, City Attorney

Approved Not Approved

Greta Kearns, Mayor

Date: August 11, 2020

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT PUBLICATION OF THE FOREGOING ORDINANCE OF RESOLUTION WAS MADE BY POSTING TRUE COPIES THEREOF AT FIVE OF THE MOST PUBLIC PLACES IN GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS AS DETERMINED BY COUNCIL PURSUANT TO ORD. 80-80, TO WIT: GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS MUNICIPAL BUILDING, STEVENSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, EDISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL, GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS PUBLIC LIBRARY, EACH FOR A PERIOD OF FIFTEEN DAYS COMMENCING ON THE 11 DAY OF AUGUST 2020

CLERK OF COUNCIL
CITY OF GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS, OH