

A RESOLUTION DECLARING RACISM A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS AND TO ESTABLISH STRONGER EFFORTS TO PROMOTE RACIAL EQUITY IN SAN ANTONIO.

* * * * *

WHEREAS, the people of San Antonio have voiced the need for racial equity through protests and petitions; and

WHEREAS, data shows that racism has an adverse impact on the lives of people of color in the San Antonio community; and

WHEREAS, the United States Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion acknowledges that discrimination negatively impacts health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Merriam-Webster defines “public health” as the art and science dealing with the protection and improvement of community health by organized community effort and including preventive medicine and sanitary and social science; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention state that Social Determinants of Health - conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play - affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes

WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association states that racism is an ongoing public health crisis that needs our attention now; and

WHEREAS, racism is evident on systemic, interpersonal, and institutional levels throughout time and over generations; and

WHEREAS, throughout history slavery, Jim Crow laws, and racism have allowed for preferential opportunity to some but held African Americans and people of color at a disadvantage in life and across generations; and

WHEREAS, the result of racist practices throughout history, including but not limited to discriminatory lending practices also called “redlining” and gentrification, still carry negative repercussions today in the form of lack of access to nutritious food, economic security, educational achievement, and infant mortality; and

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes shows that black infants were about two times as likely as white infants to die during the first year of life in San Antonio

WHEREAS, racism still causes disproportionately high rates of poor health, poor education, incarceration, and economic hardship for African Americans and people of color; and

WHEREAS, research shows that adverse experiences in childhood are disproportionately experienced by African American children and children of color when compared to white children and result in negative impacts on physical, mental, and behavioral health as well as poor academic performance; and

WHEREAS, the life expectancy of African Americans in San Antonio is 5 years less than that of Caucasians on average; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for various measures to be put in place to address these issues and should actively engage all of the community in the search for solutions to racial inequity that are present in any areas of life in San Antonio; and

WHEREAS, as a community it is necessary to continue to build alliances with organizations that are working against racism; and continue to promote racially equitable practices in the health, education, employment, and criminal justice of people of color through the establishment of a working group.

WHEREAS, the fight against racism and its adverse impacts on our community has reached critical mass and it is necessary to declare racism a public health crisis in our city; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health, criminal justice, and safety, **NOW THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

Section 1. That this Council declares racism to be a public health crisis and will work toward developing meaningful initiatives, programs, and measures (including establishing a working group) to promote racial equity in the City of San Antonio.

Section 2. Be it further resolved, that regular updates be provided to the community on these efforts.

Section 3. That this Council supports groups and initiatives that promote racial equity and will work with the community to find innovative solutions and resources.

Section 4. That this Council will continue to use equity principles in developing and evaluating the City's Budget.