

RESOLUTION NO. 2021 - 6

RESOLUTION DELCARING RACISM A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Bloomington is the official governing body of the City of Bloomington, Minnesota (“City”); and

WHEREAS the City Council recognizes Equity and Inclusion as one of its strategic priorities; and

WHEREAS the City Council has adopted a Racial Equity Business Plan which is an evolving document intended to guide the City’s internal efforts to advance racial equity. The plan captures ongoing equity and inclusion priorities from the Council’s strategic plan and provides goals, strategies and performance measures that will move the work forward; and

WHEREAS health statistics in Bloomington (see Attachment A) show significant and substantial racial disparities in overall health as well as in the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, according to a recent report by the Institute for Healing Justice and Equity at St. Louis University, (1) Racism is a system that causes racial inequalities in housing, health care, education, employment, and law enforcement, resulting in physical and physiological harm, (2) because racism limits equal opportunities for wealth, education, employment, and housing over multiple generations, the harms from racism cannot be justly and fully rectified without providing material, institutional, and social support, (3) Governments must use racial equity tools in their decision-making processes to anticipate and mitigate any racially disproportionate harms, (4) Dismantling systemic racism requires collaboration with marginalized communities, and (5) Racism will not be addressed without healing (www.tjcinstitute.com/research/racism-is-a-public-health-crisis); and

WHEREAS, public health can be defined as the science, practice, and art of collective efforts to prevent disease, promote health, and prolong quality of life among populations, while assuring conditions in which all people can be healthy (www.publichealth.wustl.edu/public-health-and-global-health-definitions); and

WHEREAS, public health professionals work to limit health disparities, promote health care equity, quality, and accessibility by implementing educational programs, recommending

policies, administering services, and conducting research to improve the health of people and their communities, (www.cdcfoundation.org/what-public-health); and

WHEREAS, Health in All Policies is a collaborative approach that integrates and articulates health considerations into policymaking across sectors to improve the health of all communities and people. Health in All Policies recognizes that health is created by a multitude of factors beyond health care and, in many cases, beyond the scope of traditional public health activities; and

WHEREAS, more than 100 studies have linked systemic racism to worse health outcomes (<https://www.nap.edu/read/10260/chapter/11>); and

WHEREAS, leading medical and public health organizations including, but not limited to, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Public Health Association recognize that systemic racism is a social determinant of health that has profound, negative impacts on the health status of children, youth, adults, and families and that failure to address racism as an urgent public health issue will exacerbate and perpetuate existing health inequities affecting Black, Indigenous and People of Color communities, and these organizations have made commitments to work actively to dismantle racism in health care policies and practices; and

WHEREAS, residents and community organizations have expressed support for and encouraged the City Council to declare racism as a public health crisis, including but not limited to HealthPartners, Bloomington Chamber, ClearWay Minnesota, and the City of Bloomington's Advisory Board of Health and Human Rights Commission, Normandale Community College Equity and Inclusion Officer, and residents; and,

WHEREAS, the economic vitality of a community is based in part on the economic stability and growth of its residents and businesses and inequities can negatively impact the entire community (<https://www.minneapolisfed.org/policy/racism-and-the-economy>).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA, based on the foregoing recitals and in furtherance of the intent of this Resolution, that the City Council declares Racism a Public Health Crisis and directs the City to:

1. Engage community in review of the Racial Equity Business Plan; and
2. Undertake a concerted effort to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the exacerbation of racial inequities; and

3. Implement a community-driven approach for developing a strategic plan that defines internal and external work to eliminate racial disparities, outlines indicators of success, and identifies intersectional priorities; and
4. Implement a Health in All Policies approach to decision-making; and
5. Require staff to complete a racial equity impact assessment for changes to policies, codes, or regulations and identify steps taken to mitigate any adverse impact in recommendations for council action; and
6. Direct staff to engage and partner with local and regional organizations who are addressing racism as a public health issue; and
7. Develop staff capacity to lead racial equity work; and
8. Improve the City's ability to collect needed data to inform racial equity work; and
9. Develop a structure to sustain racial equity within the organization and invest resources needed to grow staff capacity to lead and support work; and
10. Provide City Boards and Commissions the necessary resources and recommend City Boards and Commissions add racial equity as priority in their 2021 work plans, and seek to understand how racial equity impacts the work that they do, the decisions that they make, and the policy advice that they provide to council; and
11. Become a trauma-informed agency so that staff are aware of the impact of structural racism, and its impact on employees and the residents the City serves; and
12. Explore internal funding for racial equity work; and
13. Convene a racial equity taskforce that involves staff and members from the community, including residents, schools, businesses, non-profits, and regional government
14. Approve a new Racial Equity section in the City's Legislative Policy.

Passed and adopted this 25th day of January, 2021.

DocuSigned by:

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Mayor

Attest: DocuSigned by:


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Secretary to the Council

Data Spotlight on Disparities in the BIPOC Community in Bloomington

COVID-19 data as of 1/19/21:

- Black residents made up 13% of Bloomington's COVID-19 cases, but make up only 9% of Bloomington's residents (ACS 5-year 2014-2018)
- Hispanic residents made up 19% of Bloomington's COVID-19 cases, but make up only 9% of Bloomington's residents (ACS 5-year 2014-2018)
- White non-Hispanic residents made up 57% of Bloomington's COVID-19 cases, but make up 77% of Bloomington's residents (ACS 5-year 2014-2018)

Racism data in Bloomington, Edina, and Richfield: 2018 community health survey. Full report is available [here](#).

- Survey respondents from the BIPOC community generally reported worse mental and physical health
- Survey respondents that were Black or American Indian/Alaska Native reported fewer servings of fruits and vegetables
- 21% of Hispanic survey respondents reported that they could not get the medical care they needed in the last year, compared to 9% of non-Hispanic survey respondents
- BIPOC survey respondents reported less access to healthy food, healthcare facilities, job opportunities, recreation facilities, reliable transportation, and places to walk/bike

Racism data in Bloomington School District: 2019 MN Student Survey*

- Black and Hispanic students have worse health in numerous aspects compared to non-Hispanic White students
- BIPOC students get less physical activity compare to White students
- More BIPOC students frequently eat fast food compare to White students
 - Over 40% of Black 11th graders reported eating fast food 4 or more times in the last week, compared to only 15% of White 11th graders
- Rate of obesity in Hispanic students is more than twice the rate in White non-Hispanic students
- Students experience racially-based bullying; almost 40% of 9th grade Asian students were bullied in the last month for their race/ethnicity/nationality. Over ¼ of Somali students were bullied because of their religion in the last month

Data on poverty from census data: 2014-2018 ACS estimates for Bloomington*

- 16% of Black residents and 14% of Hispanic residents live in poverty, compared to 5% of White residents
- Only 56% of Hispanic residents have graduated high school or have a GED, compared to 96% of White (non-Hispanic) residents

- Black residents have a median income that is \$25,000 less than the median income of White residents (\$49,750 vs. \$74,716)
- More Black and Hispanic residents are unemployed compared with White(non-Hispanic) residents (7% for Black and Hispanic vs. 3% of White)
- Most Black, Hispanic, and American Indian residents rent their homes compared to White non-Hispanic residents (69% AI, 84% Black, 67% Hispanic, 26% White)
- The percentage of children living in poverty is drastically higher for Black and American Indian children compared to White non-Hispanic children (24% AI, 29% Black, 4% White)

Changing demographics: from Bloomington birth data*

- The city is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse
- In 2019, 48% of Bloomington births were to non-White mothers
- The percent of Bloomington population that is not white is increasing: 13.1% in 2000 Census, 22.8% in 2010 Census, 27.2% in 2014-2018 ACS estimates

*detailed data available upon request