

RESOLUTION NO. 7675

Declaring Racism a Public Health Emergency

WHEREAS, the vision of the City of Red Wing states that “Red Wing thrives as a vibrant, creative river town that values its natural environment, welcomes all people, and unlocks opportunity for everyone;” and

WHEREAS, the mission of the City of Red Wing states “We strive to create a sustainable, healthy, accessible, resilient, and equitable community where every person feels at home;” and

WHEREAS, the City of Red Wing recognizes the City is built upon homelands of the Bdewákhantŭwəŋ Dakota Indians of the Prairie Island Indian Community and that Indigenous nations have lived upon this land since time immemorial, and the land itself carries historical trauma, and that genocidal policies have aimed to strip tribal nations not only of land, but of culture, language, and family systems; and

WHEREAS, the City of Red Wing recognizes that Africans were forcibly brought to this country, enslaved, and after the Emancipation of Slavery, citizens of this country perpetuated anti-Black racism through violence, mass incarceration, and anti-Black policies including redlining, and that the social construction of race was used to justify their “less than human” status; and

WHEREAS, racism has various forms including historical, individual, and systemic, and that has not only continued to present day but has been institutionalized to ensure the concentration of material, power, and resources into the hands of white bodied individuals; and

WHEREAS, white supremacy is a political, economic, and cultural system in which whites overwhelmingly control power and material resources, conscious and unconscious ideas of white superiority, and entitlement across a broad array of institutions and social settings; and

WHEREAS, racism in all its forms causes persistent discrimination and disparate outcomes in many areas of life, including housing, education, health, employment, public safety, and criminal justice; and

WHEREAS, a multitude of studies connect racism to inequitable health outcomes for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), including cancer, coronary heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, and high infant and maternal mortality rates, demonstrating that racism is the root cause of vast inequities in our social determinants of health; 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 BIPOC communities, and that these health organizations have made commitments to work actively to dismantle racism in health care policies and practices; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that police killings of unarmed Black Americans have adverse effects on mental health among Black American adults overall, and that programs are needed to decrease the frequency of police killings and to mitigate adverse mental health effects within communities when and where such killings occur; and

WHEREAS, BIPOC community members in Red Wing experience the trauma of police violence and the vicarious trauma of reliving violent incidents via social media; and

WHEREAS, being anti-racist means moving and speaking in ways that repair (not simply abandon) more than 500 years of racist policies and practices. Anti-racism means actively participating in dismantling racist systems and institutional practices, as well as addressing personal and interpersonal acts of racism; and

WHEREAS, embodied anti-racists acknowledge that this history still lives and expresses itself through our bodies today; and

WHEREAS, City of Red Wing leadership is committed to ending racism and building an active, anti-racist culture in the City of Red Wing now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Red Wing will work to reduce the impact of racism by implementing a Racial Equity Plan. These impacts will include mental health care, drug treatment, food deserts, housing, zoning, hiring practices, youth opportunities, and other impacts included in the Racial Equity Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Red Wing will work with Goodhue County, the State of Minnesota, the Red Wing School District, the Prairie Island Indian Community Tribal Council, and other entities to identify and implement initiatives that will have the most impact on health disparities caused by racism; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Red Wing will set aside a dedicated fund of money for supporting racial equity initiatives and collecting data; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Red Wing will work with our Human Rights Commission, our Advisory Team on Policies and Practices, and internal committees to identify improvements that can be made to reduce the impacts of racism within our City government; and

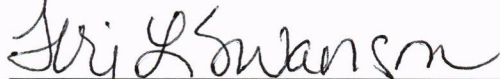
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Red Wing will work with our public safety departments to increase access to equitable mental health services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Red Wing will work with our Youth Commission to support the development of more opportunities for marginalized youth.

Adopted by the City Council this 9 th day of August, 2021.


Becky Norton, Council President

Attest:


Teri L. Swanson, MCMC, City Clerk

(seal)

Presented to the Mayor at 10A.m. on this 10 th day of August, 2021.

Approved this 10 th day of August, 2021.


Michael Wilson, Mayor

