

BASHERT'S BI-WEEKLY MAYORAL BULLETIN



RACISM IS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

On June 2, 2020 City Council passed a resolution (proclamation?) declaring Racism to be a Public Health Crisis. Mayor Pro Tem Lois Richardson led this process which created this strong and impactful statement below.

This will only mean something if we act in accordance with these statements and values.

If you are white, use your voice and actions to be a part of the changes that are needed. Join your black, brown, and indigenous neighbors and friends in crying out for change and an end to the systems that have created so much harm and pain.

If you are not white, know that the City of Ypsilanti hears your pain and suffering from the effects of racism. We stand with you and support effective efforts to create change now and ongoing.

Resolution No. 2020-115A

June 2, 2020

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti is outraged and appalled by the recent murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade and countless other African Americans that have lost their lives to racial violence, and police brutality; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti grieves with the families and communities across this nation and calls for accountability of those who perpetuate violence under the badge of law; and

WHEREAS, historic, systemic and pervasive racism and traumas of colonization and slavery make people of color, particularly African Americans and Indigenous communities in our country, fear for their families' health, safety, and lives every single day; and

WHEREAS, racism is a social system with multiple dimensions: individual racism that is internalized or interpersonal; systemic racism that is institutional or structural, and is a system of structuring opportunity and assigning value based on the social interpretation of how one looks; and

WHEREAS, racism unfairly disadvantages specific individuals and communities, while unfairly giving advantages to other individuals and communities, and saps the strength of the whole society through the waste of human



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resources, and the City of Ypsilanti'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; and

WHEREAS, based on population percentages African Americans experience systemic inequity per capita nationally; and

WHEREAS, communities of color, working class residents, and those that suffer from disabilities, are more likely to experience poor health outcomes as a consequence of their social determinants of health — health inequities stemming from economic stability, education, physical environment, food and access to health care systems; and

WHEREAS, a contemporary example of such disparity is highlighted by the coronavirus data in Washtenaw County, 12% of the county population are African American, yet account for 34% of the diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, more than 100 studies have linked racism to worse health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, no change will be realized until white citizens of this country stand besides those exclaiming for justice; and

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

1. Assert that racism is a public health crisis affecting our entire country.
2. Work to progress as an equity and justice-oriented organization, with the City Council and its staff leadership continuing to identify specific activities to further enhance diversity and to ensure antiracism principles across City Council leadership, staffing and contracting.
3. Promote equity through all policies approved by the 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.
4. Continue to advocate locally 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.
5. 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.
6. Support community efforts to amplify issues of racism and engage actively and authentically with communities of color wherever they live.
7. To always promote and support policies that prioritize the health of all people, especially people of color by mitigating exposure to adverse childhood experiences.
8. Continue on-going racial equity training with the goal of reaching all City of Ypsilanti leadership and staff.

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9. Encourage racial equity training among all community partners, grantees, vendors and contractors.

10. Identify clear goals and objectives, including periodic reports to the City Council, to assess progress and capitalize on opportunities to further advance racial equity; and

Be it Further resolved, that City Council supports all additional efforts in the City of Ypsilanti, State of Michigan, and nationwide to address racism and public health disparities due to racial inequities; and

Be it Further resolved, that the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti declares there will be zero tolerance for police brutality by the City of Ypsilanti Police Department; and

Be it Further resolved, that the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti call upon the Governor, the Speaker of the Michigan House, and the Michigan Senate Majority Leader to join with us to declare racism as a public health crisis and to enact equity in all policies of the State of Michigan.

OFFERED BY: Mayor Pro-Tem Lois Richardson

SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Nicole Brown

YES: 7 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0 VOTE: Approved

CITY HALL, DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES, LIBRARIES, RESTAURANTS, ETC... OPENING!

Many of our local establishments will have opened or are about to open back up. This is both exciting and nerve wracking at the same time. Are you ready to have a meal out? Ready for casual shopping? Eager? A little nervous? Want to know how it will work? Below is a thumbnail sketch of the new rules and systems you can expect to find.

City Hall:

Have business at City Hall? We are getting ready for YOU starting June 15, 2020.

Below see the description of what services we conduct and what hours you can access them in the detailed document below created by our City Manager, France McMullan.

These new norms include:

- Masks are required when in the City Hall. If you do not have a mask available, our staff has created and is distributing PPE and sanitizing kits to anyone who lives in our city and one will be made available to you upon request.
- One person only will be allowed on the third floor where building permits and other related processes are handled. A socially distant waiting area has been set aside on the first floor in Council Chambers for your convenience and safety.
- Many city services can be conducted online through forms and email and this is still the safest way to conduct business.
- Please be patient with City staff and each other. We have all been pent up indoors for what feels like a long time.

[Find the letter from the City Manager here.](#)

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- Masks are required while shopping at all stores; entrance or shopping will not be permitted without a mask
- Keep a minimum of 6 feet distance between you, service people, and other customers
- Be patient, things may take a little longer than normal
- Most of our businesses are doing curbside pick-up with online or phone ordering, reducing the possibility of contact
- Watch for signs and/or floor decals for traffic-flow indicators and spacing
- Each business is required to submit a plan for opening that complies with all safety regulations for both customers and staff

Restaurants:

- Masks are required at all times, when you are approaching or leaving your table
- People refusing to wear masks will be not allowed entrance
- Tables will be spaced at least 6 feet apart: Most are at 50% capacity indoors or less
- No seating at bars, due to being too close to staff working on the other side
- Some restaurants may require reservations only for planning with limited seating
- Almost all our restaurants have outside seating options available
- Be patient, things may take longer than in the past
- Each business is required to submit a plan for opening that complies with all safety regulations for both customers and staff

Rutherford Pool Will be Closed This Summer

A statement from Jessica Faul from Rutherford Pool

After much discussion the Friends of the Rutherford Pool Board has made the difficult decision not to open the pool for the rest of the season. We know many of you are disappointed, we are too! But we feel this is in the best interest of the safety and health of our community.

Below are some of the reasons we've made this decision:



Photo by Leisa Thompson

- We are concerned that it would be impossible to maintain social distancing while guests are in the pool.
- We would have to limit guest capacity which would mean some people would be turned away at the door.
- With construction of the bathhouse still not complete we would only open at most half the season. This would cause us to likely lose significant revenue.
- Most importantly, we do not want to put our staff and guests at any risk to catch or spread the virus.

We are hopeful that we can take this summer to complete construction and be ready for an awesome season in 2021. Until then, please stay safe and keep in touch with all your pool staff. We miss you!

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CONT. FROM PG 3**Libraries:**

Our beloved Ypsilanti District Library is getting ready to open up again. I don't know about you, but I am ready for some physical hardcopy books from the library. Audible books are great, and have been a huge source of pleasure in quarantine. I am ready to see a stack of bound books from the library back in our house again, though. Bring it on!

Here is some of what you can expect:

- Programs will look different, with fewer people
- Masks will be required when in the buildings
- There may be delays between usage/availability of books and equipment to allow for sanitizing
- Please be patient, they are working to keep you safe

[Here is a link to the page](#) where the YDL is posting plans and updates.

PARKING KIOSKS ARE UP IN DEPOT TOWN

You may notice that our new parking kiosks are being installed. They are not functional yet, with signs to indicate that status. Notification will go up June 15 that that enforcement will begin July 6, 2020.

Some parking spaces will be 'bagged' for our retail and food businesses. We expect parking demand to be lower than it was prior to the pandemic and continue that way for some time. That is an educated guess.

ZOOM EVENTS WITH THE MAYOR

I recently held 2 Zoom events to discuss issues and news related to Covid. These events are an opportunity to share information about local concerns and issues. If you have a question you think we should hold an event about, let me know!

Safe Opening

What are businesses doing to prepare to open up? What have businesses done to safely and successfully open up again? Thanks to Brian Jones Chance (734 Brewery), Shawn Cool (Red Rock), and Christopher Jacobs (DDA Director), for their time and valuable information. Watch the video at the link below to learn some of the challenges, ideas, hopes, etc.. [LINK](#)

Domestic Violence & Child Abuse During the Pandemic

Many people expressed to me questions and concerns about the impact having working people and children at home if they are living with their abuser. To answer those questions, I invited Barbara Neiss-May, the Director of Safe House to talk about this issue.

[You can view the video of that Zoom discussion here.](#)

WASHTENAW COUNTY BARRIER BUSTERS OFFERS SERVICES

If you are struggling with making ends meet, paying rent, fearing eviction, or need help with food, gas, or childcare, please reach out to our local Barrier Busters Agencies. Bereavement assistance is also available.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

[BEREAVEMENT RESOURCES](#)

RECYCLING GOAL OF 30% BY 2025

Source: MIRS Capitol Capsule – Tuesday, June 2, 2020

The House Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Committee got its first look today on a package of bills to update solid waste planning with the goal of achieving a 45% recycling rate and an interim goal of 30% rate by 2025.

“The policy changes represented in these bills really are the key to unlocking significant investment in this work. Currently, Michiganders spend over \$1 billion to landfill nearly \$600 million worth of materials every year. That’s a lot of money,” said Kerrin O’Brien of the Michigan Recycling Coalition.

“By updating the framework within which we make decisions about how we manage materials at the end of their useful life, we can shift that spend to more effectively divert materials to productive use and keep those materials circulating, rather than being a burden on future generations.

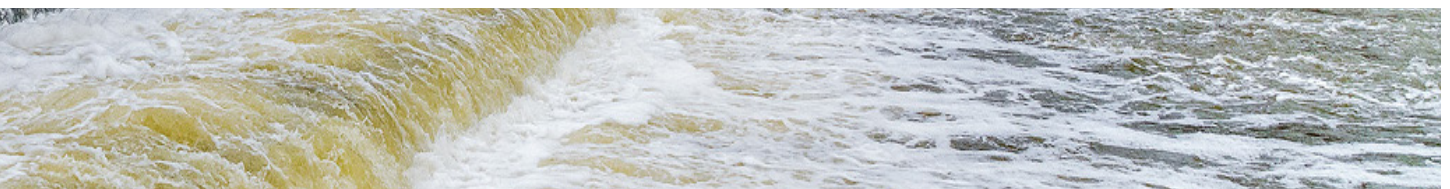
“If we can triple our recycling rate, we will have 138,000 new jobs, we will have \$9 billion in annual labor income, we generate \$33 million plus of economic output. These are significant numbers.”

Included in the package are [HB 5777](#) sponsored by Rep. Gary Howell (R-North Branch), [HB 5813](#) by Rep. William Sowerby (D-Clinton Twp.), [HB 5814](#) by Rep. Yousef Rabhi (D-Ann Arbor), [HB 5815](#) by Rep. Jack O’Malley (R-Lake Ann), [HB 5816](#) Rep. Scott Vansingel (R-Grant) and [HB 5817](#) by Rep. Joe Tate (D-Detroit).

O’Brien said the bills are the result of six years’ worth of work by interested parties and many of the issues and concerns have been worked out.

But not all. Kevin Kendall, of the Michigan Waste and Recycling Association, raised concerns about some of the costs that would be involved in the package for landfill operators.

He said landfill operators already have agreed to a doubling of fees for permits needed to construct new landfills, but the bill also would double the fees paid to the state for operations. For the largest landfills, those able to accept 3,000 tons or more per day, the operations fees would increase from \$30,000 to \$60,000 annually



COVID-19 UPDATES

For the latest information on the progress of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Washtenaw County Health Department is the central clearinghouse. Click [HERE](#) for information on what to do if you're sick, testing information, mental health, cases in the county, prevention and risk reduction, resources for help, and more.

MUSIC FROM EDUCATE YOUTH

These are the thoughts from students at Educate Youth on the events in our country. They've put together two songs to shed light on positive aspects of a negative situation. Due to the unfortunate events occurring across the nation, the teens were devastated and felt passionate to do something. The pandemic has taken enough of our lives, will we let gun violence take more? They want to show that there are always ways to spread awareness. Please listen to their thoughts:

[Stuck in the Crib](#)
[Together As One](#)

MASK MAKERS NEEDED!

Sewers are needed to make masks for Engage EMU, partnering with the City of Ypsilanti. By the first week of June, Engage EMU had sewn 2200 masks! But more are needed. If you can help, they are offering a \$25 gift certificate for each group of 50 masks you make, materials provided. Please contact engage_emu@emich.edu to volunteer your sewing services. To request PPE or other help, please fill out the [COVID-19 Community Request Form](#).





IN COMMUNITY,

Mayor Beth Bashert

FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/bashert4ypsi/>

Email: mayor@cityofypsilanti.com

Phone: 734-368-3573

READING THIS OFFLINE? Here's a list of links I mentioned in the articles above.

Letter from City Manager

<https://cityofypsilanti.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1047>

YDL updates

<https://www.ypsilibrary.org/2020/06/ydls-update-on-resuming-services/>

Safe Opening

<https://www.facebook.com/events/584193542221649/>

Domestic Violence Zoom discussion

https://www.facebook.com/events/1001613456936214/permalink/1007539146343645/?notif_t=page_post_reaction¬if_id=1591886286190751

Barrier Busters

<https://www.washtenaw.org/DocumentCenter/View/16231/Community-Barrier-Buster---COVID19?bidId=>

Bereavement Resources

<https://www.washtenaw.org/DocumentCenter/View/16372/Bereavement-Resources---COVID19-1?bidId=HB5777>

<https://mirsnews.com/bills/details/41566>

HB5813

<https://mirsnews.com/bills/details/41629>

HB5814

<https://mirsnews.com/bills/details/41631>

HB5815

<https://mirsnews.com/bills/details/41632>

HB5816

<https://mirsnews.com/bills/details/41633>

HB5817

<https://mirsnews.com/bills/details/41634>

COVID 19 updates

<https://www.washtenaw.org/3095/COVID-19>

Stuck in the Crib

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mst0Nty7shc&t=2s>

Together as one

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHZzQs0tPrU>

Community PPE

<http://form.jotform.com/200915801676153>