

Resolution No.:

Meeting Date: January 12, 2021

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
DECLARING RACISM A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS**

WHEREAS, it is the mission of the County of San Diego to efficiently provide public services that build strong and sustainable communities; and

WHEREAS, one of the County of San Diego's most critical roles is promoting public health, which protects the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work and play; and

WHEREAS, throughout San Diego County's history, systemic racism has had lasting generational effects on groups including Black/African-Americans, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian American & Pacific Islander and all people of color; and

WHEREAS, anti-Black racism dehumanizes and marginalizes Black/African-American people and also affects communities of color by privileging those with lighter skin; and

WHEREAS, structural racism is at the root of many of our systems and institutions that have never been equitable for all; and

WHEREAS, racism, including unconscious and conscious bias, causes persistent racial discrimination in Criminal Justice, Housing, Social Capital, Voter Suppression, Education, Transportation, Employment, Food Access, Mental Health and Health Behaviors, Socioeconomic Status, Environmental Exposure, Access to Health Services, and Public Safety; and

WHEREAS, racism also intersects with other forms of prejudice and oppression to increase adverse outcomes, including discrimination based on immigration status, gender and sexual orientation, and mental and physical abilities; and

WHEREAS, disproportionately higher rates of chronic disease, shorter life expectancy, maternal and infant mortality, and health inequities for Black/African Americans and other racial groups are widely recognized and documented, yet continue to persist throughout San Diego County; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), California Black infants are nearly three times more likely to die during their first year of life and nearly 60 percent are more likely to be born prematurely; and

WHEREAS, according to CDC, nationally Black birthing people are over three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than white birthing people; and

WHEREAS, according to Voice of San Diego analysis, Black/African-American children in San Diego County are three times as likely to be suspended from school than their white peers; and

WHEREAS, according to a Campaign Zero report focused on the San Diego Police Department and San Diego Sheriff Department has shown Black/African-Americans in San Diego County are being stopped, searched, and used force against at higher rates than white people; and

WHEREAS, according to a report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey, Black/African-American transgender people live in extreme poverty, with 34 percent reporting a household income of less than \$10,000 per year. More than twice the rate for transgender people of all races (15 percent), four times the general Black population rate (9 percent), and eight times the general U.S. population rate (4 percent); and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated racial and social inequities by disproportionately impacting communities of color; and

WHEREAS, San Diego County has made efforts to address health and social inequities that exist, through the work of various programs and initiatives with a special emphasis by Public Health Services to thread Health Equity throughout all their work, but it is not enough; and

WHEREAS, continued and unnecessary loss of Black lives including Breonna Taylor, Alfred Olango, Miles Hall, George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and so many others, calls upon the County to be visible in our outrage, and, more importantly, in our resolve to work for change; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego asserts that racism is an urgent public health crisis affecting our entire community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County of San Diego commits to working to end racism and being intentional in our efforts to heal the harms that this organization has perpetuated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County of San Diego supports community efforts to amplify and address issues of racism and engage actively and authentically with communities of color in our county in conjunction with the Human Relations Commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County of San Diego supports the creation of a County Racial Equity Action Plan and other efforts to address equity in internal policies, and programs across the County enterprise; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County of San Diego will align and build on health equity efforts within departments across all business groups; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego does hereby support the efforts to achieve racial equity and a just San Diego County.