



**BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL HEALTH, LIFE ENRICHMENT, EQUITY &  
COMMUNITY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Monday, November 23, 2020  
10:00 AM**

Committee Members:

Councilmembers Rashi Kesarwani, Ben Bartlett, and Sophie Hahn  
Alternate: Councilmember Rigel Robinson

**PUBLIC ADVISORY: THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH  
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE**

Pursuant to Section 3 of Executive Order N-29-20, issued by Governor Newsom on March 17, 2020, this meeting of the City Council Health, Life Enrichment, Equity & Community Committee will be conducted exclusively through teleconference and Zoom videoconference. Please be advised that pursuant to the Executive Order, and to ensure the health and safety of the public by limiting human contact that could spread the COVID-19 virus, there will not be a physical meeting location available.

To access the meeting remotely using the internet: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device: Use URL - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85624887690>. If you do not wish for your name to appear on the screen, then use the drop down menu and click on "rename" to rename yourself to be anonymous. To request to speak, use the "raise hand" icon on the screen.

To join by phone: Dial **1-669-900-9128 or 1-877-853-5257 (Toll Free)** and Enter Meeting ID: **856 2488 7690**. If you wish to comment during the public comment portion of the agenda, press \*9 and wait to be recognized by the Chair.

Written communications submitted by mail or e-mail to the Health, Life Enrichment, Equity, & Community Committee by 5:00 p.m. the Friday before the Committee meeting will be distributed to the members of the Committee in advance of the meeting and retained as part of the official record. City offices are currently closed and cannot accept written communications in person.

# AGENDA

## Roll Call

## Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

## Minutes for Approval

*Draft minutes for the Committee's consideration and approval.*

### 1. Minutes - October 26, 2020

## Committee Action Items

*The public may comment on each item listed on the agenda for action as the item is taken up. The Chair will determine the number of persons interested in speaking on each item. Up to ten (10) speakers may speak for two minutes. If there are more than ten persons interested in speaking, the Chair may limit the public comment for all speakers to one minute per speaker.*

*Following review and discussion of the items listed below, the Committee may continue an item to a future committee meeting, or refer the item to the City Council.*

### 2. Listening Session on Homelessness (15 minutes)

### 3. Declare Racism as a Public Health Crisis, a Threat and Safety Issue in the City of Berkeley *(Item contains revised material)*

**From: Councilmember Davila (Author), Councilmember Bartlett (Co-Sponsor)**

**Referred: June 15, 2020**

**Due: December 5, 2020**

**Recommendation:** Declare Racism as a Public Health Crisis, a Threat and Safety Issue in the City of Berkeley, and commit to eliminate all socioeconomic barriers to health equity. In addition:

1. Declare the resolution an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health, or safety, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic and it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption.

2. Budget Referral to convene a series of town hall sessions for all community members, City workers, and small business owners to discuss the concerns of people of color and marginalized community members, and develop strategies and programs (especially Mental Health Programs for the unhoused stay housed) for greater inclusivity, understanding, empathy, compassion, and unity. The purpose of these meetings should be to strengthen anti-racist capacity building and commitments within the city. This can be done by discussing the current quantitative and qualitative reality of racial justice and injustice, racism and non-racism in all areas of city life toward developing measures to ensure the achievement racial equity in Berkeley. These town halls, strategies and programs could include: the definition and lived experience of racism in systemic and institutional forms the effects and trauma caused by them, and provide resources to combat implicit bias on

## Committee Action Items

all levels. Community partners to consider to facilitate such workshops include Beyond Diversity: Courageous Conversations About Race and Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ).

3. City Council will establish a working group to promote racial equity as well as the development of programs to address racial equity in this City.

4. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to record COVID-19 data by race/ethnicity and to explore greater health disparities that have emerged as a result of this crisis.

5. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to hold several fundraisers at town hall sessions for black-owned small businesses, research of state and federal RFPs for the purpose of grants acquisitions for program development in the City of Berkeley that have been affected by Covid-19 and/or recent protests.

6. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to prepare a Health in All Policies Ordinance (see attached City of Richmond Ordinance) for Council review and adoption, critically evaluating the public health impact of all legislative and budgetary proposals, especially upon people of color and marginalized community members.

7. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to adopt a mandatory requirement of 16 hours of ongoing annual online and in-person training on implicit bias, cultural sensitivity, and cultural humility for City Employees, commissioners, and community members; and

8. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee in partnership with the Berkeley Public Health Division and the Mental Health Division to develop a Strategic Plan for Health Equity, with the inclusion of a diverse group of staff with expertise in this subject matter and begin immediate implementation of recommendations.

9. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to have an antiracism dashboard that delineates and tracks progress towards specific antiracist goals. This would involve: 1) tracking and measuring specific data that shows the extent to which racism has become a public health crisis; which would in turn enable 2) the City and the Community to dramatically reduce instances of racism, if not totally eliminate some of them; and 3) demonstrate to constituents that the other recommendations have made, and must continue to make, a tangible difference. The dashboard shall include: analyzing hospital infant mortality by race; tracking food insecurity among Berkeley residents, and correlation to racial demographics; analyzing the effects of biological weathering and resultant mental health challenges on immune strength for black individuals, and studying mental health resource availability and outreach targeting at-risk black communities; analyzing the administration of medications and health therapies by race, in an attempt to understand Berkeley health providers position vis a vis the systemic under-prescription and under-treatment of Black patients pain; tracking violent incidents targeting queer Black residents, and studying the availability of mental health resources and culturally competent healthcare for queer Black patients; identifying the largest sources of corporate environmental or carcinogenic pollution in Berkeley, and the racial demographics of people with prolonged exposure to those regions (i.e. workers and residents within range of toxic substances); identifying the locations of city waste storage/processing and the racial demographics of those most closely exposed; examining property taxes by neighborhood, and correlation to school resources and student racial demographics;

## Committee Action Items

examining the availability of stable and affordable Internet access, as necessary for all possible student activities offered and required by Berkeley public schools;

10. Collaborate with the Berkeley Unified School District and the Vision 2020 to see how this is correlated to household racial demographics; analyzing students' realistic access to extracurricular activities such as arts and athletics; race-based differential access means that some students have less access to educational opportunities that help with physical and mental health; identifying the levels of lead and other toxins in public school buildings, and correlation to resource allocation and racial demographics among schools.

11. Submit copies of this resolution to State Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, State Senator Nancy Skinner, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, as well as various organizations such as the Berkeley NAACP, the African American Holistic Resource Center Steering Committee, and Healthy Black Families.

**Financial Implications:** \$50,000 estimated

Contact: Cheryl Davila, Councilmember, District 2, (510) 981-7120

### 4a. **A People's First Sanctuary Encampment**

**From: Homeless Commission**

**Referred: March 30, 2020**

**Due: January 30, 2021**

**Recommendation:** The City Council to adopt the People's First Sanctuary Encampment Model incorporating all text in this report, urging best practices for Sanctuary Homeless Encampments with an oversight agency to be named by members of the encampment community and refer to the City Manager to fund liability insurance for the agency chosen by the encampment community.

**Financial Implications:** See report

Contact: Brittany Carnegie, Commission Secretary, (510) 981-5400

### 4b. **Companion report: A People's First Sanctuary Encampment**

**From: City Manager**

**Referred: March 30, 2020**

**Due: January 30, 2021**

**Recommendation:** As part of the referral adopted by City Council on January 21, 2020, the City Manager will direct staff to incorporate parts of the Commission's recommendations which do not conflict with guidance already approved by City Council including: providing clean water, sanitation, accessible toilets and trash removal services for the sanctioned encampment, requiring that a future provider of services for the encampment obtain input from residents of the encampment when developing rules for the outdoor shelter and ensure that the privacy and security of residents is respected and maintained.

**Financial Implications:** Staff time

Contact: Lisa Warhuus, Housing and Community Services, (510) 981-5400

## Committee Action Items

5. **Create and Support an Adopt an Unhoused community program**  
**From: Councilmember Davila (Author), Councilmember Harrison (Co-Sponsor)**  
**Referred: November 16, 2020**  
**Due: May 8, 2021**  
**Recommendation:** 1. Adopt a resolution to create and support neighborhood volunteers and community groups adopting an encampment, street campers, RV / Vehicle community, located along University Avenue/ Shattuck Avenue / Adeline corridor/ San Pablo Avenue and other areas throughout the City.  
2. Short term referral to the City Manager and/or designee(s) to present to the City Council in 90 days: how to implement the program modeled after the City of Oakland Adopt a Spot Program, identify a community based organization to oversee the volunteers, know what is needed to adequately implement these efforts, including different organizational structure options.  
**Financial Implications:** See report  
Contact: Cheryl Davila, Councilmember, District 2, (510) 981-7120

## Unscheduled Items

*These items are not scheduled for discussion or action at this meeting. The Committee may schedule these items to the Action Calendar of a future Committee meeting.*

6. **Support Vision 2025 for Sustainable for Sustainable Food Policies**  
**From: Councilmember Davila (Author)**  
**Referred: August 31, 2020**  
**Due: February 15, 2021**  
**Recommendation:** 1. Adopt a Resolution Supporting Vision 2025 for Sustainable Food Policies  
2. Join San Francisco, Chicago and Austin in signing the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) which includes forming an advisory body on sustainable food policies.  
3. Support adoption of a Climate-Friendly Food Purchasing Policy as described by Friends of the Earth to replace 50% of the City's annual animal-based food procurement with plant-based food.  
4. Short Term Referral to the City Manager to: a. Track the amount of animal-based food replaced with plant-based food; b. Use Friends of the Earth's Municipal Guide to Climate-Friendly Food Purchasing for the procurement of plant-based food.  
**Financial Implications:** See report  
Contact: Cheryl Davila, Councilmember, District 2, (510) 981-7120

## Unscheduled Items

### 7. Service Animals Welcome Training

**From: Commission on Disability**

**Referred: March 30, 2020**

**Due: January 30, 2021**

**Recommendation:** That the City Council refer to the City Manager a request to implement education and training provisions of the Service Animals Welcome Policy and Program:

a. Work with Business Improvement Districts and Commercial District Organizations to provide opportunities for businesses to learn about their responsibilities regarding service animals in their places of business.

b. Provide information on Service Animals and Access Rights of Persons with Disabilities accompanied by a Service Animal as required staff training on non-discrimination under applicable federal, state and local statutes, regulations and policies.

c. Provide necessary and adequate support to the Disability Compliance Program.

**Financial Implications:** Staff time

Contact: Dominika Bednarska, Commission Secretary, (510) 981-6300

## Items for Future Agendas

- Discussion of items to be added to future agendas
- Discussion of future hearings and open forums

## Adjournment

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*Written communications addressed to the Health, Life Enrichment, Equity & Community Committee and submitted to the City Clerk Department will be distributed to the Committee prior to the meeting.*

*This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953. Members of the City Council who are not members of the standing committee may attend a standing committee meeting even if it results in a quorum being present, provided that the non-members only act as observers and do not participate in the meeting. If only one member of the Council who is not a member of the committee is present for the meeting, the member may participate in the meeting because less than a quorum of the full Council is present. Any member of the public may attend this meeting. Questions regarding this matter may be addressed to Mark Numainville, City Clerk, (510) 981-6900.*



### COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION:

To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at (510) 981-6418 (V) or (510) 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date.

~~~~~  
I hereby certify that the agenda for this meeting of the Standing Committee of the Berkeley City Council was posted at the display case located near the walkway in front of the Maudelle Shirek Building, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, as well as on the City's website, on November 19, 2020.



Mark Numainville, City Clerk

## **Communications**

*Communications submitted to City Council Policy Committees are on file in the City Clerk Department at 2180 Milvia Street, 1st Floor, Berkeley, CA.*





**BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL HEALTH, LIFE ENRICHMENT, EQUITY &  
COMMUNITY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, October 26, 2020  
10:00 AM**

Committee Members:

Councilmembers Rashi Kesarwani, Ben Bartlett, and Sophie Hahn  
Alternate: Councilmember Rigel Robinson

**PUBLIC ADVISORY: THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH  
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE**

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**Roll Call:** 10:03 a.m. Kesarwani absent.

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters:** 2 speakers

## Minutes for Approval

*Draft minutes for the Committee's consideration and approval.*

### 1. Minutes - September 29, 2020

**Action:** M/S/C (Bartlett/Hahn) to approve the minutes of September 29, 2020.

**Vote:** Ayes – Bartlett, Hahn; Noes – None; Absent – Kesarwani; Abstain – None.

## Committee Action Items

*The public may comment on each item listed on the agenda for action as the item is taken up. The Chair will determine the number of persons interested in speaking on each item. Up to ten (10) speakers may speak for two minutes. If there are more than ten persons interested in speaking, the Chair may limit the public comment for all speakers to one minute per speaker.*

*Following review and discussion of the items listed below, the Committee may continue an item to a future committee meeting, or refer the item to the City Council.*

### 2. Listening Session on Homelessness (15 minutes) – 0 speakers

### 3. Presentation: Public Health Implications for unsanitary conditions at Aquatic Park

**Action:** 3 speakers. Presentation made and discussion held. The Committee asked for this item to return in March/April 2021, and again in September/October 2021, with an updated presentation.

### 4. Report on Homeless Outreach during COVID 19 Pandemic

**Action:** 3 speakers. Presentation made and discussion held. M/S/C (Bartlett/Hahn) to refer to the presentation to the City Council to schedule at an upcoming Worksession or Regular Council meeting.

**Vote:** Ayes – Bartlett, Hahn; Noes – None; Absent – Kesarwani; Abstain – None.

### 5. Declare Racism as a Public Health Crisis, a Threat and Safety Issue in the City of Berkeley *(Item contains revised materials)*

**From:** Councilmember Davila (Author), Councilmember Bartlett (Co-Sponsor)

**Referred:** June 15, 2020

**Due:** December 5, 2020

**Recommendation:** Declare Racism as a Public Health Crisis, a Threat and Safety Issue in the City of Berkeley, and commit to eliminate all socioeconomic barriers to health equity. In addition:

## Committee Action Items

1. Declare the resolution an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health, or safety, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic and it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption.
2. Budget Referral to convene a series of town hall sessions for all community members, City workers, and small business owners to discuss the concerns of people of color and marginalized community members, and develop strategies and programs (especially Mental Health Programs for the unhoused stay housed) for greater inclusivity, understanding, empathy, compassion, and unity. The purpose of these meetings should be to strengthen anti-racist capacity building and commitments within the city. This can be done by discussing the current quantitative and qualitative reality of racial justice and injustice, racism and non-racism in all areas of city life toward developing measures to ensure the achievement racial equity in Berkeley. These town halls, strategies and programs could include: the definition and lived experience of racism in systemic and institutional forms the effects and trauma caused by them, and provide resources to combat implicit bias on all levels. Community partners to consider to facilitate such workshops include Beyond Diversity: Courageous Conversations About Race and Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ).
3. City Council will establish a working group to promote racial equity as well as the development of programs to address racial equity in this City.
4. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to record COVID-19 data by race/ethnicity and to explore greater health disparities that have emerged as a result of this crisis.
5. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to hold several fundraisers at town hall sessions for black-owned small businesses, research of state and federal RFPs for the purpose of grants acquisitions for program development in the City of Berkeley that have been affected by Covid-19 and/or recent protests.
6. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to prepare a Health in All Policies Ordinance (see attached City of Richmond Ordinance) for Council review and adoption, critically evaluating the public health impact of all legislative and budgetary proposals, especially upon people of color and marginalized community members.
7. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to adopt a mandatory requirement of 16 hours of ongoing annual online and in-person training on implicit bias, cultural sensitivity, and cultural humility for City Employees, commissioners, and community members; and
8. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee in partnership with the Berkeley Public Health Division and the Mental Health Division to develop a Strategic Plan for Health Equity, with the inclusion of a diverse group of staff with expertise in this subject matter and begin immediate implementation of recommendations.
9. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to have an antiracism dashboard that delineates and tracks progress towards specific antiracist goals. This would involve: 1) tracking and measuring specific data that shows the extent to which racism has become a public health crisis; which would in turn enable 2) the City and the Community to dramatically reduce instances of racism, if not totally eliminate some of them; and 3) demonstrate to constituents that the other recommendations have made, and must continue to make, a tangible difference. The dashboard shall

## Committee Action Items

include: analyzing hospital infant mortality by race; tracking food insecurity among Berkeley residents, and correlation to racial demographics; analyzing the effects of biological weathering and resultant mental health challenges on immune strength for black individuals, and studying mental health resource availability and outreach targeting at-risk black communities; analyzing the administration of medications and health therapies by race, in an attempt to understand Berkeley health providers position vis a vis the systemic under-prescription and under-treatment of Black patients pain; tracking violent incidents targeting queer Black residents, and studying the availability of mental health resources and culturally competent healthcare for queer Black patients; identifying the largest sources of corporate environmental or carcinogenic pollution in Berkeley, and the racial demographics of people with prolonged exposure to those regions (i.e. workers and residents within range of toxic substances); identifying the locations of city waste storage/processing and the racial demographics of those most closely exposed; examining property taxes by neighborhood, and correlation to school resources and student racial demographics; examining the availability of stable and affordable Internet access, as necessary for all possible student activities offered and required by Berkeley public schools;

10. Collaborate with the Berkeley Unified School District and the Vision 2020 to see how this is correlated to household racial demographics; analyzing students' realistic access to extracurricular activities such as arts and athletics; race-based differential access means that some students have less access to educational opportunities that help with physical and mental health; identifying the levels of lead and other toxins in public school buildings, and correlation to resource allocation and racial demographics among schools.

11. Submit copies of this resolution to State Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, State Senator Nancy Skinner, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, as well as various organizations such as the Berkeley NAACP, the African American Holistic Resource Center Steering Committee, and Healthy Black Families.

**Financial Implications:** \$50,000 estimated

Contact: Cheryl Davila, Councilmember, District 2, (510) 981-7120

Item continued to next meeting on November 12, 2020.

## Unscheduled Items

*These items are not scheduled for discussion or action at this meeting. The Committee may schedule these items to the Action Calendar of a future Committee meeting.*

### 6. Service Animals Welcome Training

**From: Commission on Disability**

**Referred: March 30, 2020**

**Due: January 30, 2021**

**Recommendation:** That the City Council refer to the City Manager a request to implement education and training provisions of the Service Animals Welcome Policy and Program:

a. Work with Business Improvement Districts and Commercial District Organizations to provide opportunities for businesses to learn about their responsibilities regarding service animals in their places of business.

b. Provide information on Service Animals and Access Rights of Persons with Disabilities accompanied by a Service Animal as required staff training on non-discrimination under applicable federal, state and local statutes, regulations and policies.

c. Provide necessary and adequate support to the Disability Compliance Program.

**Financial Implications:** Staff time

Contact: Dominika Bednarska, Commission Secretary, (510) 981-6300

### 7a. A People's First Sanctuary Encampment

**From: Homeless Commission**

**Referred: March 30, 2020**

**Due: January 30, 2021**

**Recommendation:** The City Council to adopt the People's First Sanctuary Encampment Model incorporating all text in this report, urging best practices for Sanctuary Homeless Encampments with an oversight agency to be named by members of the encampment community and refer to the City Manager to fund liability insurance for the agency chosen by the encampment community.

**Financial Implications:** See report

Contact: Brittany Carnegie, Commission Secretary, (510) 981-5400

## Unscheduled Items

**7b. Companion report: A People's First Sanctuary Encampment**

**From: City Manager**

**Referred: March 30, 2020**

**Due: January 30, 2021**

**Recommendation:** As part of the referral adopted by City Council on January 21, 2020, the City Manager will direct staff to incorporate parts of the Commission's recommendations which do not conflict with guidance already approved by City Council including: providing clean water, sanitation, accessible toilets and trash removal services for the sanctioned encampment, requiring that a future provider of services for the encampment obtain input from residents of the encampment when developing rules for the outdoor shelter and ensure that the privacy and security of residents is respected and maintained.

**Financial Implications:** Staff time

Contact: Lisa Warhuus, Housing and Community Services, (510) 981-5400

**8. Support Vision 2025 for Sustainable for Sustainable Food Policies**

**From: Councilmember Davila (Author)**

**Referred: August 31, 2020**

**Due: February 15, 2021**

**Recommendation:** 1. Adopt a Resolution Supporting Vision 2025 for Sustainable Food Policies

2. Join San Francisco, Chicago and Austin in signing the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) which includes forming an advisory body on sustainable food policies.

3. Support adoption of a Climate-Friendly Food Purchasing Policy as described by Friends of the Earth to replace 50% of the City's annual animal-based food procurement with plant-based food.

4. Short Term Referral to the City Manager to: a. Track the amount of animal-based food replaced with plant-based food; b. Use Friends of the Earth's Municipal Guide to Climate-Friendly Food Purchasing for the procurement of plant-based food.

**Financial Implications:** See report

Contact: Cheryl Davila, Councilmember, District 2, (510) 981-7120

## Items for Future Agendas

- Discussion of items to be added to future agendas
- Discussion of future hearings and open forums

## Adjournment

**Action:** M/S/C (Bartlett/Hahn) to adjourn the meeting.

**Vote:** Ayes – Bartlett, Hahn; Noes – None; Absent – Kesarwani; Abstain – None.

Adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct record of the Health, Life Enrichment, Equity & Community Committee meeting held on October 26, 2020.

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April Richardson, Assistant City Clerk

## Communications

*Communications submitted to City Council Policy Committees are on file in the City Clerk Department at 2180 Milvia Street, 1st Floor, Berkeley, CA.*







No Material  
Available for  
this Item

There is no material for this item.

**City Clerk Department**  
2180 Milvia Street  
Berkeley, CA 94704  
(510) 981-6900

**The City of Berkeley, Health, Life Enrichment, Equity & Community Policy Committee**  
**Webpage:**

[https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/Home/Policy\\_Committee\\_Health,\\_Life\\_Enrichment,\\_Equity\\_Community.aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/Home/Policy_Committee_Health,_Life_Enrichment,_Equity_Community.aspx)





Cheryl Davila  
Councilmember  
District 2

## REVISED AGENDA MATERIAL

**Meeting Date:** July 13, 2020

**Item Description:** Declare Racism as a Public Health Crisis, a Threat and Safety Issue in the City of Berkeley.

**Submitted by:** Councilmember Cheryl Davila

Added Additional Recommendation

Updated Racism Forms Defined

Updated Formatting



Cheryl Davila  
Councilmember  
District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR  
June 30, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmembers Cheryl Davila (Author) and Ben Bartlett (Co-Sponsor)

Subject: Declare Racism as a Public Health Crisis, a Threat and Safety Issue in the City of Berkeley.

RECOMMENDATION

Declare Racism as a Public Health Crisis, a Threat and Safety Issue in the City of Berkeley, and commit to eliminate all socioeconomic barriers to health equity. In addition:

1. Declare the resolution an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health, or safety, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic and it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption.
2. Budget Referral to convene a series of town hall sessions for all community members, City workers, and small business owners to discuss the concerns of people of color and marginalized community members, and develop strategies and programs (especially Mental Health Programs for the unhoused stay housed) for greater inclusivity, understanding, empathy, compassion, and unity. The purpose of these meetings should be to strengthen anti-racist capacity building and commitments within the city. This can be done by discussing the current quantitative and qualitative reality of racial justice and injustice, racism and non-racism in all areas of city life toward developing measures to ensure the achievement racial equity in Berkeley. These town halls, strategies and programs could include: the definition and lived experience of racism in systemic and institutional forms the effects and trauma caused by them, and provide resources to combat implicit bias on all levels. Community partners to consider to facilitate such workshops include Beyond Diversity: Courageous Conversations About Race and Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ).
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11. Submit copies of this resolution to State Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, State Senator Nancy Skinner, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, as well as various organizations such as the Berkeley NAACP, the African American Holistic Resource Center Steering Committee, and Healthy Black Families.

## BACKGROUND

There is clear data that proves racism negatively impacts the lives of people of color in the City of Berkeley and throughout the County and Nation.

Almost all 400 years of African American's experience was under enslavement and Jim Crow laws and upheld White Supremacy that provided preferential opportunity to some, while at the same time subjected people of color, especially African Americans to hardship and disadvantages in all areas of life.

Racism – not race - causes disproportionately high rates of homelessness, incarceration, poor education and health outcomes, and economic hardship for African Americans in this country.

Racism acts on systemic, institutional, and interpersonal levels, all of which operate throughout time and across generations.

Racism is an organized social system in which a dominant group categorizes and ranks people into social groups, “races”, and uses its power to devalue, disempower, and differentially allocate valued societal resources and opportunities to groups classified as inferior. Racism can act in multiple domains, including structural/institutional, cultural, and individual-level discrimination, reinforcing ideologies of inferiority and hierarchy in media images, laws, interpersonal interactions, and opportunities. Structural or institutional racism embeds racism into policies and practices in society that provide advantages for racial groups deemed superior, while oppressing, disadvantaging, or neglecting racial groups viewed as inferior. Structural racism results in differential access to housing, employment, education, healthy food, clean air and drinking water, and exposure to violence, thus has a significant impact on public health.

Structural racism has profound public health impacts. Now, in this critical moment of a global pandemic caused by COVID-19, previous health disparities are being exacerbated by the lack of infrastructure and provisions of basic resources afforded to marginalized communities. While coronavirus does not seem to discriminate against whom it infects, it does have differential impacts on people who were already in a compromised position in society, due to socioeconomic factors, access to healthcare and housing, and suffering from a compromised immune system due to the effects of stress, the trauma experience of discrimination and the impacts of living in communities that are disproportionately impacted by environmental injustice.

Reports are emerging, highlighting the disparity in the rates of COVID-19 outcomes for communities of color. Cities like Milwaukee, Washington DC, Detroit, Chicago, and New Orleans have experienced a disproportionate morbidity and mortality for black residents due to Coronavirus. The Congressional Black Caucus has called for all states to track public health data regarding coronavirus by race and ethnicity<sup>1</sup>. To this point, Representative Robin Kelly, Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Healthcare Braintrust, stated: “the reason more Blacks are dying from COVID-19 is a result of a history of structural racism, environmental injustice, income inequality, and the lack of resources in Black communities, which have led to the prominence of health-related risk factors such as diabetes and hypertension.” According to data from the Centers for Disease Control, almost one-third of infections nationwide have affected black-Americans, even though blacks only represent 13% of the U.S. population. Additionally, an analysis done by the Associated Press found that nearly one-third of those who passed due to COVID-19 across the country are black.

#### **Racism Forms Defined:**

- **Racism** - Racism is the belief that groups of humans possess different behavioral traits corresponding to physical appearance, and can be divided based on the superiority of one race over another.<sup>[1][2][3][4]</sup> It may also mean prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against other people because they are of a different race or ethnicity.<sup>[2][3]</sup> Modern variants of racism are often based in social perceptions of biological differences between peoples. These views can take the form of social actions, practices or beliefs, or political systems in which different races are ranked as inherently superior or inferior to each other, based on presumed shared inheritable traits, abilities, or qualities.<sup>[2][3][5]</sup>
- **Environmental racism** - Environmental racism is a concept used to describe environmental injustice that occurs in practice and in policy within a racialized context.<sup>[1]</sup> In a national context, environmental racism criticizes inequalities between urban and exurban areas after white flight. Charges of environmental racism can also prompt

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<sup>1</sup> <https://cbc.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=2174>

usages of civil rights legislation like the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to prosecute environmental crimes in the areas in which racialized people live. Internationally, environmental racism can refer to the effects of the global waste trade, like the negative health impact of the export of electronic waste to China from developed countries.

- **Institutional/systemic racism** - Institutional racism (also known as systemic racism) is a form of racism expressed in the practice of social and political institutions. It is reflected in disparities regarding wealth, income, criminal justice, employment, housing, health care, political power, and education, among other factors. The term "institutional racism" was coined by Stokely Carmichael and Charles V. Hamilton. Carmichael and Hamilton wrote that while individual racism is often identifiable because of its overt nature, institutional racism is less perceptible because of its "less overt, far more subtle" nature. Institutional racism "originates in the operation of established and respected forces in the society, and thus receives far less public condemnation than [individual racism]".<sup>[2]</sup>
- **Interpersonal racism** - Interpersonal racism is a component of individual-level racism and has been defined as "directly perceived discriminatory interactions between individuals whether in their institutional roles or as public and private individuals" (Krieger, 1999, p. 301). Interpersonal racism includes maltreatment that the targeted individual attributes, at least in part, to conscious or unconscious racial/ethnic bias on the part of the perpetrator of the maltreatment.
- **Internalized racism** - Internalized racism is a form of internalized oppression, defined by sociologist Karen D. Pyke as the "internalization of racial oppression by the racially subordinated."<sup>[1]</sup> In her study *The Psychology of Racism*, Robin Nicole Johnson emphasizes that internalized racism involves both "conscious and unconscious acceptance of a racial hierarchy in which whites are consistently ranked above people of color."<sup>[2]</sup> These definitions encompass a wide range of instances, including, but not limited to, belief in negative racial stereotypes, adaptations to white cultural standards, and thinking that supports the status quo (i.e. denying that racism exists).<sup>[3]</sup>
- **Structural racism** - Structural Racism in the U.S. is the normalization and legitimization of an array of dynamics – historical, cultural, institutional, and interpersonal – that routinely advantage whites while producing cumulative and chronic adverse outcomes for people of color. It is a system of hierarchy and inequity, primarily characterized by white supremacy – the preferential treatment, privilege, and power for white people at the expense of Black, Latino, Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, Arab, and other racially oppressed people.
- **Prejudice** - Prejudice<sup>[1]</sup> is an affective feeling towards a person based on their perceived group membership. The word is often used to refer to a preconceived, usually unfavorable, evaluation of another person based on that person's political affiliation, sex, gender, beliefs, values, social class, age, disability, religion, sexuality, race/ethnicity, language, nationality, beauty, occupation, education, criminality, sport team affiliation or other personal characteristics.<sup>[2]</sup>
- **Discrimination** - In human social behavior, discrimination is prejudiced treatment or consideration of, or making a distinction towards, a being based on the group, class, or category to which they are perceived to belong. These include age, caste, criminal record, height, disability, family status, gender identity, gender expression, generation, genetic characteristics, marital status, nationality, color, race and ethnicity, religion, sex and sex characteristics, sexual orientation, social class, species, as well as other categories. Discrimination consists of treatment of an individual or group, based on their actual or perceived membership in a certain group or social category, "in a way that is worse than the way people are usually treated".<sup>[1]</sup> It involves the group's initial reaction or interaction going on to influence the individual's actual behavior towards the group leader or the group, restricting members of one group from opportunities or privileges that are available to another group, leading to the exclusion of the individual or entities based on illogical or irrational decision making.<sup>[2]</sup>

- **Systemic Racism:** Systemic racism today is composed of intersecting, overlapping, and codependent racist institutions, policies, practices, ideas, and behaviors that give an unjust amount of resources, rights, and power to white people while denying them to people of color. Developed by sociologist Joe Feagin, systemic racism is a popular way of explaining, within the social sciences and humanities, the significance of race and racism both historically and in today's world. Feagin describes the concept and the realities attached to it in his well-researched and readable book, *Racist America: Roots, Current Realities, & Future Reparations*. In it, Feagin uses historical evidence and demographic statistics to create a theory that asserts that the United States was founded in racism since the Constitution classified black people as the property of whites. Feagin illustrates that the legal recognition of racialized slavery is a cornerstone of a racist social system in which resources and rights were and are unjustly given to white people and unjustly denied to people of color. (thoughtco.com)
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  - The effects of systemic racism are pervasive in Indigenous communities. The causal pathways driving racism and its negative effects are complex, intertwined, and deeply embedded in diverse systems, including economic, political, and psychosocial. Below are some examples of how systemic racism leads to health inequities that are reflective of the broad disadvantage that Indigenous communities face:
    - Colonial policies: Mandatory residential schools, the outlawing of Indigenous gatherings and ceremonies, forced community dislocations, and discriminatory child welfare legislation have had lasting and intergenerational effects on mental health, family relationships, and Indigenous language and culture.
    - Limited healthy food choices: Dispossession of traditional lands has interfered with traditional economies and access to traditional foods; urban, rural, and remote Indigenous peoples often have inadequate access to affordable healthy and nutritious foods.
    - Inadequate living conditions: Indigenous peoples living in cities and rural and remote communities are faced with inadequate housing and living conditions. For example, the peoples of Inuit Nunangat experience overcrowding and poor respiratory health from low-quality housing stock, leading to elevated rates of TB infection. There is also increased overcrowding in housing.
    - Substandard health care: In addition to the differential access to acute cardiac imaging and intervention, studies describe high levels of perceived interpersonal racism toward Indigenous patients from health care providers across health care settings. Experiences of racism, including unfair treatment as a result of racism, have been reported in multiple Indigenous survey studies, across geographic settings, with prevalence rates ranging from 39 percent to 78 per cent. In some cases,



this is so severe that Indigenous patients strategized on how to manage racism before seeking care in the emergency room.

- **Islamophobia** - Islamophobia is the fear, hatred of, or prejudice against the Islamic religion or Muslims generally, especially when seen as a geopolitical force or the source of terrorism.
- **Xenophobia** - Xenophobia is the fear or hatred of that which is perceived to be foreign or strange. It is an expression of the perceived conflict between an ingroup and an outgroup and may manifest in suspicion by one of the other's activities, a desire to eliminate their presence, and fear of losing national, ethnic, or racial identity.
- **Anti-semitism** - Anti-semitism is hostility to, prejudice, or discrimination against Jews.<sup>[1][2][3]</sup> A person who holds such positions is called an anti-semite. Anti-semitism is generally considered to be a form of racism. Anti-semitism may be manifested in many ways, ranging from expressions of hatred of or discrimination against individual Jews to organized by mobs, state police, or even military attacks on entire Jewish communities. Anti-zionism is not anti-semitism
- ~~**Anti-semitism** - Antisemitism is hostility to, prejudice, or discrimination against Jews.<sup>[1][2][3]</sup> A person who holds such positions is called an antisemite. Antisemitism is generally considered to be a form of racism. Antisemitism may be manifested in many ways, ranging from expressions of hatred of or discrimination against individual Jews to organized pogroms by mobs, state police, or even military attacks on entire Jewish communities.~~
- **Intersectionality** - Intersectionality is a theoretical framework for understanding how aspects of one's social and political identities (e.g., gender, race, class, sexuality, disability, etc.) might combine to create unique modes of discrimination. It aims to broaden the agenda of the first waves of feminism, which largely focused on the experiences of white, middle-class women. The broad agenda means that intersectionality is used to find combinations of injustices that are felt by members of society. For example, a black woman might face discrimination from a company that is not distinctly due to her race (because the company does not discriminate against black men) nor her gender (because the company does not discriminate against white women), but by a unique combination of the two. Intersectional feminism aims to separate itself from white feminism by acknowledging the fact that all women have different experiences and identities.<sup>[1]</sup> It is a qualitative analytic framework that identifies how interlocking systems of power affect those who are most marginalized in society.<sup>[2]</sup>
- **Zionism** - Zionism is a political ideology, a form of Jewish nationalism. Zionism is a set of beliefs that drove the founding of the State of Israel in Palestine. Also defined as the nationalist movement of the Jewish people that espouses the re-establishment of and support for a Jewish state in the territory defined as the historic Land of Israel (roughly corresponding to Canaan, the Holy Land, or the region of Palestine). Anti-Zionism is not anti-semitism, it is the opposition to Zionism, the racist, apartheid policies of the Israeli state. Anti-Zionism is Anti Racist.
- **"ISM"** - a system of oppression based on target identity (race, sex, etc)

Racism, sexism, heterosexism (homophobia), ageism, ableism, classism, xenophobia, religious prejudice, and other forms of oppression have damaged us all. All the -isms are connected.

Beyond this, the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic has unleashed an increased amount of racism in this country. There have been a number of documented instances of harassment and physical violence targeting Asian people since the outbreak of the coronavirus, as well as the use of stigmatizing terms like "Chinese Virus" to denote COVID-19. The President of the United States has continued to spew hate, racism, xenophobia, and Islamophobia since he began campaigning for office. COVID-19 has exacerbated the President's racism towards our

commUNITY members, and throughout the world, as a number of violent attacks have been made towards Asian Americans.

The World Health Organization defines “public health” as “the art and science of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organized efforts of society” and those efforts “aim to provide conditions under which people can... be healthy, improve their health and well-being, or prevent the deterioration of their health.”

The United States Office of Disease Prevention recognizes that discrimination negatively impacts health outcomes.

The negative repercussions of historical racism, including but not limited to, discriminatory lending practices of the 20th century known as “redlining,” impact current outcomes regarding access to nutritious food, economic security, educational achievement, rates of lead poisoning, and infant mortality.

Research indicates that adverse childhood experiences are disproportionately experienced by black children when compared to white children thus having negative impacts on academic, behavioral, and physical health outcomes of black children.

Statistics show a national disparity between black and white infant mortality rates, and the State consistently ranks among the worst states concerning black infant mortality rates.

The rates of chronic diseases, including asthma, diabetes, and hypertension, are significantly higher in predominantly black neighborhoods.

The Department of Health and Human Services defines the social determinants of health as conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age, which affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. Social determinants of health include access to resources like safe and affordable housing, education, public safety, availability of healthy foods, local emergency/health services, and environments free of life-threatening toxins. Beyond genetic predispositions or individual life choices, the World Health Organization notes that the social determinants of health predict a person’s life expectancy. By these means, structural racism threatens public health by hindering equitable access to the social determinants of health.

Utilizing an intersectional framework, it is clear that discrimination based on race can be linked to disadvantages for a number of people with marginalized identities, in particular the poor or unhoused, queer and trans, disabled, Muslim, immigrant, and Indigenous communities.<sup>JP</sup>

Massar “because higher levels of discrimination are associated with an elevated risk to a broad range of diseases, for instance, contraction of heart disease, cancer, and HIV. And everyday over 200 Black people die prematurely due to health inequities between Whites and Blacks.

Like many cities in the United States, the City of Berkeley has a long history of racism. Studies conducted on Berkeley’s employment practices and modes of policing have demonstrated structural racism and discrimination at the core of the City’s functions. Waves of racial housing segregation, codified by redlining in the past, and currently operating through gentrification and displacement, is a major factor influencing racial/ethnic disparities in health outcomes. The 2018 Berkeley Health Status Report demonstrated that within the City of Berkeley, African Americans and other People of Color die prematurely and are more likely to experience a wide variety of adverse health conditions throughout their lives. Specifically, Black people make up a

disproportionately high percentage of the city's homeless population, are less likely to attain higher education, are more likely to live in poverty, and have poorer health outcomes, morbidity, and mortality from cardiovascular disease, heart disease, cancers, and birth complications.

The Alameda County Department of Public Health has demonstrated racial/ethnic health disparity in our community, noting a 17-year difference in life expectancy between a child born in West Oakland and the Oakland Hills. Supervisor Keith Carson has begun a process of trying to address health inequities through the launch of the Health Matters Initiative.

Additionally, the City of Richmond also views racism as a major threat to public health and has adopted a Health in all Policies Ordinance in order to rectify health inequities. Other cities throughout the United States, like Kansas City, Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, and Cleveland, have also come to view racism as a public health crisis, passing legislation to turn the tide and ensure everyone (regardless of their race or ethnicity) has the opportunity to live healthy, fulfilling lives.

On any given night, more than 1,000 Berkeley residents do not have shelter (i.e. living outdoors in tents, on sidewalks, or in vehicles) according to the Alameda County 2019 Point-In-Time Count. A growing number of residents are housing insecure and at risk of becoming homeless. A majority of unhoused Berkeley residents are people of color, seniors, and disabled. Many have passed away.

The City of Berkeley should follow the example of other cities that have declared racism as a threat to public health. We should adopt a Health in All Policies Ordinance, and take all necessary legislative steps to ensure health equity in our city. Minimally this will involve the curation of a number of town hall sessions to hear the concerns of marginalized community members and with careful collaborations, develop a strategic plan for health equity. Additionally, the City should provide training on ways to reduce implicit bias for City employees and interested members of the community. This will allow us to critically evaluate our prejudices and take the initiative to reduce bias and remove racist barriers to the social determinants of health.

The City must recognize that racism is a public health crisis that affects all members of our society both locally and nationwide and deserves action from all levels of government and civil society.

The time is *now* to declare racism as a public health threat in our community. The time has come to change business as usual. We must confront the systemic racism that has permeated society throughout our lifetime. Because in the words of Ibram X. Kendi, "the only way to undo racism is to consistently identify and describe it - and then to dismantle it."

The City Council should support the establishment of a working group to address these issues and to: seek solutions to reshape the discourse and actively engage all citizens in racial justice work; continue to work to build alliances with organizations that are confronting racism and encourage partners to recognize racism as a public health crisis; continue to promote racially equitable economic and workforce development; continue to promote racially equitable hiring and promotion of all employees including City employees; and advocate and draft relevant policies that prioritize the health of people of color and mitigate exposure to adverse childhood experiences and trauma in childhood.

California Government Code 54956.5 states: "An emergency, which shall be defined as a work stoppage, crippling activity, or other activity that severely impairs public health, safety, or both, as determined by a majority of the members of the legislative body."

With multiple crises to contend with (COVID-19 pandemic, racism, etc), and all the reasons stated earlier, it is the utmost urgency to declare racism as a nuisance and a crisis to public health and safety in the City of Berkeley, as well as adopt it as an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety.

#### FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

It is estimated \$50,000 for hiring of facilitators and the coordination of 3-5 town hall sessions.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

With a focus on health equity and the adoption of a 'Health in All Policies 'ordinance, a number of environmental benefits should result in the City, including reduced air pollution, cleaner waterways, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions by being proactive about ending environmental racism.

#### CONTACT PERSON

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[cdavila@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:cdavila@cityofberkeley.info)

#### ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution
2. Racism - Public Health Crisis, published on May 5, 2017  
Leslie Gregory, Founder and Director of Right to Health in Portland, Oregon  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oKq-870R3I&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oKq-870R3I&feature=emb_title)
3. City of Richmond Health in All Policies Ordinance:  
<http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/6999>

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RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF BERKELEY TO DECLARE RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS, A THREAT AND SAFETY ISSUE IN THE CITY OF BERKELEY

WHEREAS, Racism is defined as “an organized social system in which the dominant racial group categorizes and ranks people into social groups called “races” and uses its power to devalue, disempower, and differentially allocate valued societal resources and opportunities to groups defined as inferior”<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Racism can take on many principal domains, including structural/institutional, cultural, and individual-level discrimination; and

~~WHEREAS, Racism is the belief that groups of humans possess different behavioral traits corresponding to physical appearance, and can be divided based on the superiority of one race over another. Racism Forms are defined as:~~

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- **Discrimination** - In human social behavior, discrimination is prejudiced treatment or consideration of, or making a distinction towards, a being based on the group, class, or category to which they are perceived to belong. These include age, caste, criminal record, height, disability, family status, gender identity, gender expression, generation, genetic characteristics, marital status, nationality, color, race and ethnicity, religion, sex and sex characteristics, sexual orientation, social class, species, as well as other categories. Discrimination consists of treatment of an individual or group, based on their actual or perceived membership in a certain group or social category, "in a way that is worse than the way people are usually treated".<sup>[1]</sup> It involves the group's initial reaction or interaction going on to influence the individual's actual behavior towards the group leader or the group, restricting members of one group from opportunities or privileges that are available to another group, leading to the exclusion of the individual or entities based on illogical or irrational decision making.<sup>[2]</sup>
- **Systemic Racism:** Systemic racism today is composed of intersecting, overlapping, and codependent racist institutions, policies, practices, ideas, and behaviors that give an unjust amount of resources, rights, and power to white people while denying them to people of color. Developed by sociologist Joe Feagin, systemic racism is a popular way of explaining, within the social sciences and humanities, the significance of race and racism both historically and in today's world. Feagin describes the concept and the realities attached to it in his well-researched and readable book, *Racist America: Roots, Current Realities, & Future Reparations*. In it, Feagin uses historical evidence and demographic statistics to create a theory that asserts that the United States was founded in racism since the Constitution classified black people as the property of whites. Feagin illustrates that the legal recognition of racialized slavery is a cornerstone of a racist social system in which resources and rights were and are unjustly given to white people and unjustly denied to people of color. (thoughtco.com)
  - The effects of systemic racism are pervasive in Indigenous communities. The causal pathways driving racism and its negative effects are complex, intertwined, and deeply embedded in diverse systems, including economic, political, and psychosocial. Below are some examples of how systemic racism leads to health

inequities that are reflective of the broad disadvantage that Indigenous communities face:

- Colonial policies: Mandatory residential schools, the outlawing of Indigenous gatherings and ceremonies, forced community dislocations, and discriminatory child welfare legislation have had lasting and intergenerational effects on mental health, family relationships, and Indigenous language and culture.
- Limited healthy food choices: Dispossession of traditional lands has interfered with traditional economies and access to traditional foods; urban, rural, and remote Indigenous peoples often have inadequate access to affordable healthy and nutritious foods.
- Inadequate living conditions: Indigenous peoples living in cities and rural and remote communities are faced with inadequate housing and living conditions. For example, the peoples of Inuit Nunangat experience overcrowding and poor respiratory health from low-quality housing stock, leading to elevated rates of TB infection. There is also increased overcrowding in housing.
- Substandard health care: In addition to the differential access to acute cardiac imaging and intervention, studies describe high levels of perceived interpersonal racism toward Indigenous patients from health care providers across health care settings. Experiences of racism, including unfair treatment as a result of racism, have been reported in multiple Indigenous survey studies, across geographic settings, with prevalence rates ranging from 39 percent to 78 per cent. In some cases, this is so severe that Indigenous patients strategized on how to manage racism before seeking care in the emergency room.
- **Islamophobia** - Islamophobia is the fear, hatred of, or prejudice against the Islamic religion or Muslims generally, especially when seen as a geopolitical force or the source of terrorism.
- **Xenophobia** - Xenophobia is the fear or hatred of that which is perceived to be foreign or strange. It is an expression of the perceived conflict between an ingroup and an outgroup and may manifest in suspicion by one of the other's activities, a desire to eliminate their presence, and fear of losing national, ethnic, or racial identity.
- **Anti-semitism** - Anti-semitism is hostility to, prejudice, or discrimination against Jews.<sup>[1][2][3]</sup> A person who holds such positions is called an anti-semite. Anti-semitism is generally considered to be a form of racism. Anti-semitism may be manifested in many ways, ranging from expressions of hatred of or discrimination against individual Jews to organized by mobs, state police, or even military attacks on entire Jewish communities. Anti-zionism is not anti-semitism
- **Intersectionality** - Intersectionality is a theoretical framework for understanding how aspects of one's social and political identities (e.g., gender, race, class, sexuality, disability, etc.) might combine to create unique modes of discrimination. It aims to broaden the agenda of the first waves of feminism, which largely focused on the experiences of white, middle-class women. The broad agenda means that intersectionality is used to find combinations of injustices that are felt by members of society. For example, a black woman might face discrimination from a company that is not distinctly due to her race (because the company does not discriminate against black men) nor her gender (because the company does not discriminate against white women), but by a unique combination of the two. Intersectional feminism aims to separate itself from white feminism by acknowledging the fact that all women have different experiences and identities.<sup>[1]</sup> It is a qualitative analytic framework that identifies how interlocking systems of power affect those who are most marginalized in society.<sup>[2]</sup>
- **Zionism** - Zionism is a political ideology, a form of Jewish nationalism. Zionism is a set of beliefs that drove the founding of the State of Israel in Palestine. Also defined as



the nationalist movement of the Jewish people that espouses the re-establishment of [and support for a Jewish state in the territory defined as the historic Land of Israel \(roughly corresponding to Canaan, the Holy Land, or the region of Palestine\)](#). [Anti-Zionism is not anti-semitism, it is the opposition to Zionism, the racist, apartheid policies of the Israeli state. Anti-Zionism is Anti Racist.](#)

- **"ISM"** - a system of oppression based on target identity (race, sex, etc)

**Environmental racism** – a concept used to describe environmental injustice that occurs in practice and in policy within a racialized context.<sup>[1]</sup>

**Institutional/systemic racism** – Institutional racism (also known as systemic racism) is a form of racism expressed in the practice of social and political institutions.

**Interpersonal racism** - a component of individual-level racism and has been defined as "directly perceived discriminatory interactions between individuals whether in their institutional roles or as public and private individuals" (Krieger, 1999, p. 301).

**Internalized racism** – a form of internalized oppression, defined by sociologist Karen D. Pyke as the "internalization of racial oppression by the racially subordinated."

**Structural racism** – the normalization and legitimization of an array of dynamics— historical, cultural, institutional, and interpersonal— that routinely advantage whites while producing cumulative and chronic adverse outcomes for people of color.

**Prejudice** – an affective feeling towards a person based on their perceived group membership.

**Discrimination** – prejudiced treatment or consideration of, or making a distinction towards, a being based on the group, class, or category to which they are perceived to belong.

**Systemic Racism:** composed of intersecting, overlapping, and codependent racist institutions, policies, practices, ideas, and behaviors that give an unjust amount of resources, rights, and power to white people while denying them to people of color.

**Islamophobia** – the fear, hatred of, or prejudice against the Islamic religion or Muslims generally, especially when seen as a geopolitical force or the source of terrorism.

**Xenophobia** – the fear or hatred of that which is perceived to be foreign or strange. It is an expression of the perceived conflict between an ingroup and an outgroup and may manifest in suspicion by one of the other's activities, a desire to eliminate their presence, and fear of losing national, ethnic, or racial identity.

**Anti-semitism** – hostility to, prejudice, or discrimination against Jews.<sup>[1][2][3]</sup> A person who holds such positions is called an antisemite. Antisemitism is generally considered to be a form of racism. Antisemitism may be manifested in many ways, ranging from expressions of hatred of or discrimination against individual Jews to organized pogroms by mobs, state police, or even military attacks on entire Jewish communities.

**Intersectionality** – a theoretical framework for understanding how aspects of one's social and political identities (e.g., gender, race, class, sexuality, disability, etc.) might combine to create unique modes of discrimination.

**"ISM"** – a system of oppression based on target identity (race, sex, etc)

WHEREAS, Racism, sexism, heterosexism (homophobia), ageism, ableism, classism, xenophobia, religious prejudice, and other forms of oppression have damaged us all. All the -isms are connected; and

WHEREAS, Structural racism is supported by and reinforced in multiple societal systems, including the housing, labor, and credit markets, as well as education, criminal justice, the economy, and health care systems; and

WHEREAS, Sequencing the human genome has revealed that racial groups are not genetically discrete, reliably measured, or scientifically meaningful, and thus "race" is a social construction, not a biological category<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, A number of epidemiological studies have demonstrated the negative impacts of racism on both physical and mental health<sup>4</sup>, with racism acting through a number of pathways to increase stress and allostatic load, which have been associated with chronic disease and mortality, diminish participation in healthy behaviors, and result in greater exposure to physical violence; and

WHEREAS, almost all of the 400 years of Black American's experience under slavery and Jim Crow laws has allowed preferential opportunity to some while at the same time subjected people of color to hardship and disadvantage in all areas of life; and

WHEREAS, still now, racism – not race- causes disproportionately high rates of homelessness, incarceration, poor education and health outcomes, and economic hardship for African Americans; and

WHEREAS, racism acts on systemic, institutional, interpersonal level and psychological levels, all of which operate throughout time and across generations; and

WHEREAS, this Council believes that the time is now to declare racism a public health crisis in our community; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization defines "public health" as "the art and science of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organized efforts of society" and those efforts "aim to provide conditions under which people can... be healthy, improve their health and well-being, or prevent the deterioration of their health"; and

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

WHEREAS, the Social Determinants of Health – the social and material factors that influence health outcomes - impact life-long outcomes beginning even before birth; and

WHEREAS, the negative repercussions of historical racism, including but not limited to discriminatory lending practices of the 20th century known as "redlining," impact current outcomes regarding access to nutritious food, economic security, educational achievement, rates of lead poisoning, wealth accumulation, and infant mortality; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that adverse childhood experiences are disproportionately experienced by black children when compared to white children thus having negative impacts on academic, behavioral, and physical health outcomes of black children; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Health and Human Services defines social determinants of health as "conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, learn,

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<sup>3</sup> Smedley, Audrey, and Brian D. Smedley. "Race as biology is fiction, racism as a social problem is real: Anthropological and historical perspectives on the social construction of race." *American Psychologist* 60.1 (2005): 16.

<sup>4</sup> Paradies, Yin, et al. "Racism as a determinant of health: a systematic review and meta-analysis." *PloS one* 10.9 (2015): e0138511.

work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks,” and has highlighted access to resources like safe and affordable housing, education, public safety, availability of healthy foods, local emergency/health services, and environments free of life-threatening toxins as major foci for community health promotion<sup>5</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Principally racism works to compromise public health by hindering equitable access to housing, employment, education, and safety, which are social determinants of health; and

WHEREAS, On any given night, more than 1,000 Berkeley residents do not have shelter (i.e. living outdoors in tents, on sidewalks, or in vehicles) according to the Alameda County 2019 Point-In-Time Count. A growing number of residents are housing insecure and at risk of becoming homeless. A majority of unhoused Berkeley residents are people of color, seniors, and disabled. Many have passed away; and

WHEREAS, The Alameda County Public Health Department has stated their vision for health equity in our county, declaring that “every resident – no matter who you are, where you live, how much money you make, or the color of your skin – should have the opportunity to lead a healthy, fulfilling, and productive life”; and

WHEREAS, The neighboring City of Richmond has established a Health Equity Partnership with the goal of addressing “avoidable inequalities by equalizing the conditions for health for all groups, especially for those who have experienced socioeconomic disadvantage or historical injustices (such as racism)”<sup>6</sup> and adopted a Health in All Policies Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Health in All Policies is a healthcare framework proposed by the World Health Organization, also known as “healthy public policy,” which acknowledges health begins in the places that people live, work, learn, worship, and play, and more so than individual choices, health is influenced by a plethora of societal factors, such as policies related to agriculture, education, the environment, fiscal planning, housing, and transport<sup>7</sup>; and

WHEREAS, The City of Richmond has developed a toolkit for implementation of Health in All Policies and views this ordinance as an “integrated and comprehensive approach to bring health, well-being, and equity considerations into the development and implementation of policies, programs, and services of traditionally non-health related government systems or agencies”<sup>8</sup>

WHEREAS, Other cities in the country have introduced legislation declaring racism a threat to public health, for instance, Pittsburgh, PA,<sup>9</sup> proposed a trio of bills that would declare racism a public health crisis in the City, establish a leadership forum, and invest in a fund to eliminate racial inequalities and barriers; and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee, WI,<sup>10</sup> passed legislation declaring racism a public health crisis and is undergoing a process to advocate for policies that improve health for communities of color and will train city employees to understand how racism impacts residents; and

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-of-health>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/2574/Richmond-Health-Equity-Partnership-RHEP>

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/109146/E89260.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/109146/E89260.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/27173/Tool-Kit-DRAFT-52813-v3?bidId=>

<sup>9</sup> <https://triblive.com/local/pittsburgh-alleggheny/pittsburgh-councilmen-want-racism-to-be-treated-as-a-public-health-crisis/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://ips-dc.org/racism-is-a-public-health-crisis/>

WHEREAS, Kansas City, MI,<sup>11</sup> introduced a resolution likewise declaring racism a public health crisis, tasking the city manager to establish a comprehensive plan to address inequities that leave black men and other people of color vulnerable to early death; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland, OH, passed a resolution also declaring racism to be a public health crisis, creating a working group to promote racial equity in their City that seeks solutions to reshape the discourse and actively engage all citizens in racial justice work; continues to work to build alliances with organizations that are confronting racism and encourage partners to recognize racism as a public health crisis; continues to promote racially equitable economic and workforce development; continues to promote racially equitable hiring and promotion of all employees including City employees; and advocates and draft relevant policies that prioritize the health of people of color and mitigate exposure to adverse childhood experiences and trauma in childhood; and

WHEREAS, Increasing opportunities for good health requires investment in the municipality and community infrastructure by facilitating access to parks, safe walkable streets, grocery stores, quality housing, public transportation, good jobs, strong local business, and financial institutions, as well as clean air and water; and

WHEREAS, The Alameda County Place Matters Initiative<sup>12</sup>, spearheaded by Supervisor Keith Carson, was successful in its attempts to address and analyze social determinants of health, including criminal justice, economics, education, housing, land-use, and transportation; and

WHEREAS, The City of Berkeley's Strategic Plan includes goals to 'Champion and demonstrate social and racial equity 'and 'Be a global leader in... advancing environmental justice'; and

WHEREAS, The City of Berkeley Health Status Report of 2018<sup>13</sup> demonstrated that in Berkeley, African Americans and other People of Color die prematurely and are more likely than White people to experience a wide variety of adverse health conditions throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS, The Health Status Report specifically highlights how African Americans make up a disproportionately high percentage of Berkeley's homeless population (50%), earn 3.4x less than White families, are 2.8x less likely to have a college degree, and have a 9x higher teenage birth rate than White families, and additionally, at every life-stage African Americans have poorer health outcomes, including lower birth weight, cardiovascular disease, heart disease, cancer, asthma, and hypertension; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley's historical legacy of redlining (the process by which mortgage lenders determined the value of neighborhoods and whether to provide loans in those areas according to the racial composition and socioeconomic status of residents) has had a lingering impact of racial/ethnic segregation and the ability of Black families to build intergenerational wealth through home-ownership, particularly in South Berkeley and District 2<sup>14</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Gentrification, the process by which the influx of capital and higher-income, higher educated residents, move into working-class neighborhoods, has strongly impacted the Bay

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.kansascity.com/opinion/editorials/article234471712.html>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3945449/>

<sup>13</sup> [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Health\\_Human\\_Services/Level\\_3\\_-\\_Public\\_Health/health-status-summary-report-2018.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Health_Human_Services/Level_3_-_Public_Health/health-status-summary-report-2018.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2018/09/20/redlining-the-history-of-berkeleys-segregated-neighborhoods>

Area and has resulted in displacement (forced movement attributable to changes in housing conditions) in 48% of neighborhoods<sup>15</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Between the years 2000-2015, Berkeley (specifically District 2), has experienced a change in median rent over 50%, resulting in displacement of low-income communities of color<sup>16</sup>; and

WHEREAS, The Center for Disease Control has linked gentrification with negative health outcomes for women, children, the elderly, and racial/ethnic minorities, through processes which trigger stress, and increase exposure to injury, violence and crime, mental health disorders, and social and environmental hazards<sup>17</sup>; and

WHEREAS, The City of Berkeley as an employer has come under scrutiny for the way it has discriminated against Black employees, warranting investigations by an outside consulting firm (Mason Tillman)<sup>18</sup> to assess the response to labor grievances raised by people of color; and

WHEREAS, An investigative study by the Center for Policing Equity also demonstrated discrimination by Berkeley Police in their detainment and treatment of people color, noting that Black people were 6.5x more likely to be stopped by BPD than White people while driving, and 4.5x more likely to be stopped on foot, and additionally Black people were 4x more likely to be searched compared to Whites<sup>19</sup>; and

WHEREAS, In addition to struggling with racism, the City of Berkeley is confronted with issues of Islamophobia, xenophobia, transphobia, and the dehumanization of homeless people; and

WHEREAS, Implicit bias is defined as the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in a subconscious manner, encompassing both favorable and unfavorable assessments that cause us to have feelings and attitudes about other people based on characteristics such as race, ethnicity, age, gender, and appearance<sup>20</sup>; and

WHEREAS, A number of tools, programs, and trainings exist to help individuals and organizations reduce their implicit bias, with strategies involving stereotype replacement, counter-stereotypic imaging, individuation, perspective taking, increasing opportunities for contact with individuals from different groups, and partnership building<sup>21</sup>; and

WHEREAS, The Congressional Black Caucus sent a letter to the Center of Disease Control asking for states to report statistics of COVID-19 morbidity and mortality by race and ethnicity, and data emerged that Black people in Milwaukee and Illinois are dying of coronavirus at disproportionately high rates<sup>22</sup>; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control finds that almost one-third of infections nationwide have affected black-Americans, even though blacks only represent 13% of the U.S. population; nearly one-third of those who passed due to COVID-19 across the country are black; and

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<sup>15</sup> [https://www.urbandisplacement.org/sites/default/files/images/urban\\_displacement\\_project\\_-\\_executive\\_summary.pdf](https://www.urbandisplacement.org/sites/default/files/images/urban_displacement_project_-_executive_summary.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.urbandisplacement.org/rentchangemap>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/healthtopics/gentrification.htm>

<sup>18</sup> [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Level\\_3\\_-\\_General/Mason%20Tillman%20Associates%20Report%20051614.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Level_3_-_General/Mason%20Tillman%20Associates%20Report%20051614.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.berkeleyside.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Berkeley-Report-May-2018.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> <http://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/research/understanding-implicit-bias/>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.ihl.org/communities/blogs/how-to-reduce-implicit-bias>

<sup>22</sup> [https://cbc.house.gov/uploadedfiles/cbc-cbc\\_health\\_braintrust\\_racial\\_disparities\\_letter\\_to\\_cdc.pdf](https://cbc.house.gov/uploadedfiles/cbc-cbc_health_braintrust_racial_disparities_letter_to_cdc.pdf)

WHEREAS, this Council recognizes that racism is a public health crisis that affects all members of our society both locally and nationwide and deserves action from all levels of government and civil society; and

WHEREAS, this Council supports the establishment of a working group to address these issues and to: seek solutions to reshape the discourse and actively engage all citizens in racial justice work; continue to work to build alliances with organizations that are confronting racism and encourage partners to recognize racism as a public health crisis; continue to promote racially equitable economic and workforce development in the city; continue to promote racially equitable hiring and promotion of all employees including City employees; and advocate and draft relevant policies that prioritize the health of people of color and mitigate exposure to adverse childhood experiences and trauma in childhood; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Berkeley declare racism as a Public Health Crisis, a Threat and Safety Issue in the City of Berkeley, and commit to eliminate all socioeconomic barriers to health equity;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Declare the resolution an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health, or safety, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic and it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, A Budget Referral to convene a series of town hall sessions for all community members, City workers, and small business owners to discuss the concerns of people of color and marginalized community members, and develop strategies and programs (especially Mental Health Programs for the unhoused stay housed) for greater inclusivity, understanding, empathy, compassion, and unity. The purpose of these meetings should be to strengthen anti-racist capacity building and commitments within the city. This can be done by discussing the current quantitative and qualitative reality of racial justice and injustice, racism and non-racism in all areas of city life toward developing measures to ensure the achievement racial equity in Berkeley. These town halls, strategies and programs could include: the definition and lived experience of racism in systemic and institutional forms the effects and trauma caused by them, and provide resources to combat implicit bias on all levels. Community partners to consider to facilitate such workshops include Beyond Diversity: Courageous Conversations About Race and Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, City Council will establish a working group to promote racial equity as well as the development of programs to address racial equity in this City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to record COVID-19 data by race/ethnicity and to explore greater health disparities that have emerged as a result of this crisis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to hold several fundraisers at town hall sessions for black-owned small businesses, research of state and federal RFPs for the purpose of grants acquisitions for program development in the City of Berkeley that have been affected by Covid-19 and/or recent protests.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to prepare a Health in All Policies Ordinance (see attached [City of Richmond Ordinance](#)) for Council review and adoption, critically evaluating the public health impact of all legislative and budgetary proposals, especially upon people of color and marginalized community members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to adopt a mandatory requirement of 16 hours of ongoing annual online and in-person training on implicit bias, cultural sensitivity, and cultural humility for City Employees, commissioners, and community members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Direct the City Manager or his/her designee in partnership with the Berkeley Public Health Division and the Mental Health Division to develop a Strategic Plan for Health Equity, with the inclusion of a diverse group of staff with expertise in this subject matter and begin immediate implementation of recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to have an antiracism dashboard that delineates and tracks progress towards specific antiracist goals. This would involve: 1) tracking and measuring specific data that shows the extent to which racism has become a public health crisis; which would in turn enable 2) the City and the Community to dramatically reduce instances of racism, if not totally eliminate some of them; and 3) demonstrate to constituents that the other recommendations have made, and must continue to make, a tangible difference. The dashboard shall include: analyzing hospital infant mortality by race; tracking food insecurity among Berkeley residents, and correlation to racial demographics; analyzing the effects of biological weathering and resultant mental health challenges on immune strength for black individuals, and studying mental health resource availability and outreach targeting at-risk black communities; analyzing the administration of medications and health therapies by race, in an attempt to understand Berkeley health providers position vis a vis the systemic under-prescription and under-treatment of Black patients pain; tracking violent incidents targeting queer Black residents, and studying the availability of mental health resources and culturally competent healthcare for queer Black patients; identifying the largest sources of corporate environmental or carcinogenic pollution in Berkeley, and the racial demographics of people with prolonged exposure to those regions (i.e. workers and residents within range of toxic substances); identifying the locations of city waste storage/processing and the racial demographics of those most closely exposed; examining property taxes by neighborhood, and correlation to school resources and student racial demographics; examining the availability of stable and affordable Internet access, as necessary for all possible student activities offered and required by Berkeley public schools;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Collaborate with the Berkeley Unified School District and the Vision 2020 to see how this is correlated to household racial demographics; analyzing students' realistic access to extracurricular activities such as arts and athletics; race-based differential access means that some students have less access to educational opportunities that help with physical and mental health; identifying the levels of lead and other toxins in public school buildings, and correlation to resource allocation and racial demographics among schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Submit copies of this resolution to State Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, State Senator Nancy Skinner, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, as well as various organizations such as the Berkeley NAACP, the African American Holistic Resource Center Steering Committee, and Healthy Black Families.








Leslie Gregory  
Founder/Director - RIGHT TO HEALTH

Racism - Public Health Crisis

1,354 views • May 5, 2017

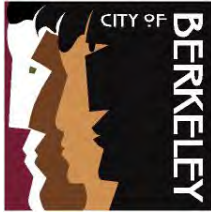
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 White On Race  
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SUBSCRIBE

Leslie Gregory, founder and director of Right to Health in Portland, Oregon, makes her case to the CDC (Center for Disease Control) for racism being a public health threat.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oKg-870R3I&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oKg-870R3I&feature=emb_title)



Cheryl Davila  
Councilmember  
District 2

## REVISED AGENDA MATERIAL

**Item Description:** Declare Racism as a Public Health Crisis, a Threat and Safety Issue in the City of Berkeley.

**Submitted by:** Councilmember Cheryl Davila

Added an additional Recommendation

Updated Racism Forms Defined

Updated Formatting



Cheryl Davila  
Councilmember  
District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR  
June 30, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmembers Cheryl Davila (Author) and Ben Bartlett (Co-Sponsor)

Subject: Declare Racism as a Public Health Crisis, a Threat and Safety Issue in the City of Berkeley.

RECOMMENDATION

Declare Racism as a Public Health Crisis, a Threat and Safety Issue in the City of Berkeley, and commit to eliminate all socioeconomic barriers to health equity. In addition:

1. Declare the resolution an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health, or safety, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic and it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption.
2. Budget Referral to convene a series of town hall sessions for all community members, City workers, and small business owners to discuss the concerns of people of color and marginalized community members, and develop strategies and programs (especially Mental Health Programs for the unhoused stay housed) for greater inclusivity, understanding, empathy, compassion, and unity. The purpose of these meetings should be to strengthen anti-racist capacity building and commitments within the city. This can be done by discussing the current quantitative and qualitative reality of racial justice and injustice, racism and non-racism in all areas of city life toward developing measures to ensure the achievement racial equity in Berkeley. These town halls, strategies and programs could include: the definition and lived experience of racism in systemic and institutional forms the effects and trauma caused by them, and provide resources to combat implicit bias on all levels. Community partners to consider to facilitate such workshops include Beyond Diversity: Courageous Conversations About Race and Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ).
3. City Council will establish a working group to promote racial equity as well as the development of programs to address racial equity in this City.
4. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to record COVID-19 data by race/ethnicity and to explore greater health disparities that have emerged as a result of this crisis.
5. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to hold several fundraisers at town hall sessions for black-owned small businesses, research of state and federal RFPs for the purpose of grants acquisitions for program development in the City of Berkeley that have been affected by Covid-19 and/or recent protests.
6. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to prepare a Health in All Policies Ordinance (see attached City of Richmond Ordinance) for Council review and adoption, critically

evaluating the public health impact of all legislative and budgetary proposals, especially upon people of color and marginalized community members.

7. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to adopt a mandatory requirement of 16 hours of ongoing annual online and in-person training on implicit bias, cultural sensitivity, and cultural humility for City Employees, commissioners, and community members.
8. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee in partnership with the Berkeley Public Health Division and the Mental Health Division to develop a Strategic Plan for Health Equity, with the inclusion of a diverse group of staff with expertise in this subject matter and begin immediate implementation of recommendations.
9. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to have an antiracism dashboard that delineates and tracks progress towards specific antiracist goals. This would involve:
  - 1) tracking and measuring specific data that shows the extent to which racism has become a public health crisis; which would in turn enable 2) the City and the Community to dramatically reduce instances of racism, if not totally eliminate some of them; and 3) demonstrate to constituents that the other recommendations have made, and must continue to make, a tangible difference. The dashboard shall include: analyzing hospital infant mortality by race; tracking food insecurity among Berkeley residents, and correlation to racial demographics; analyzing the effects of biological weathering and resultant mental health challenges on immune strength for black individuals, and studying mental health resource availability and outreach targeting at-risk black communities; analyzing the administration of medications and health therapies by race, in an attempt to understand Berkeley health providers' position vis a vis the systemic under-prescription and under-treatment of Black patients' pain; tracking violent incidents targeting queer Black residents, and studying the availability of mental health resources and culturally competent healthcare for queer Black patients; identifying the largest sources of corporate environmental or carcinogenic pollution in Berkeley, and the racial demographics of people with prolonged exposure to those regions (i.e. workers and residents within range of toxic substances); identifying the locations of city waste storage/processing and the racial demographics of those most closely exposed; examining property taxes by neighborhood, and correlation to school resources and student racial demographics; examining the availability of stable and affordable Internet access, as necessary for all possible student activities offered and required by Berkeley public schools; Collaborate with the Berkeley Unified School District and the Vision 2020 to see how this is correlated to household racial demographics; analyzing students' realistic access to extracurricular activities such as arts and athletics; race-based differential access means that some students have less access to educational opportunities that help with physical and mental health; identifying the levels of lead and other toxins in public school buildings, and correlation to resource allocation and racial demographics among schools.
10. Submit copies of this resolution to State Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, State Senator Nancy Skinner, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, as well as various organizations such as the Berkeley NAACP, the African American Holistic Resource Center Steering Committee, and Healthy Black Families.

## BACKGROUND

There is clear data that proves racism negatively impacts the lives of people of color in the City of Berkeley and throughout the County and Nation.

Almost all 400 years of African American's experience was under enslavement and Jim Crow laws and upheld White Supremacy that provided preferential opportunity to some, while at the

same time subjected people of color, especially African Americans to hardship and disadvantages in all areas of life.

Racism – not race - causes disproportionately high rates of homelessness, incarceration, poor education and health outcomes, and economic hardship for African Americans in this country.

Racism acts on systemic, institutional, structural and interpersonal levels, all of which operate throughout time and across generations.

Racism is an organized social system in which a dominant group categorizes and ranks people into social groups, “races”, and uses its power to devalue, disempower, and differentially allocate valued societal resources and opportunities to groups classified as inferior. Racism can act in multiple domains, including structural/institutional, cultural, and individual-level discrimination, reinforcing ideologies of inferiority and hierarchy in media images, laws, interpersonal interactions, and opportunities. Structural or institutional racism embeds racism into policies and practices in society that provide advantages for racial groups deemed superior, while oppressing, disadvantaging, or neglecting racial groups viewed as inferior. Structural racism results in differential access to housing, employment, education, healthy food, clean air and drinking water, and exposure to violence, thus has a significant impact on public health.

Structural racism has profound public health impacts. Now, in this critical moment of a global pandemic caused by COVID-19, previous health disparities are being exacerbated by the lack of infrastructure and provisions of basic resources afforded to marginalized communities. While coronavirus does not seem to discriminate against whom it infects, it does have differential impacts on people who were already in a compromised position in society, due to socioeconomic factors, access to healthcare and housing, and suffering from a compromised immune system due to the effects of stress, the trauma experience of discrimination and the impacts of living in communities that are disproportionately impacted by environmental injustice.

Reports are emerging, highlighting the disparity in the rates of COVID-19 outcomes for communities of color. Cities like Milwaukee, Washington DC, Detroit, Chicago, and New Orleans have experienced a disproportionate morbidity and mortality for black residents due to Coronavirus. The Congressional Black Caucus has called for all states to track public health data regarding coronavirus by race and ethnicity<sup>1</sup>. To this point, Representative Robin Kelly, Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Healthcare Braintrust, stated: “the reason more Blacks are dying from COVID-19 is a result of a history of structural racism, environmental injustice, income inequality, and the lack of resources in Black communities, which have led to the prominence of health-related risk factors such as diabetes and hypertension.” According to data from the Centers for Disease Control, almost one-third of infections nationwide have affected black-Americans, even though blacks only represent 13% of the U.S. population. Additionally, an analysis done by the Associated Press found that nearly one-third of those who passed due to COVID-19 across the country are black.

Racism Forms are defined as:

- **Racism** - Racism is the belief that groups of humans possess different behavioral traits corresponding to physical appearance, and can be divided based on the superiority of one race over another.<sup>[1][2][3][4]</sup> It may also mean prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against other people because they are of a different race or ethnicity.<sup>[2][3]</sup> Modern variants of racism are often based in social perceptions of biological differences

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<sup>1</sup> <https://cbc.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=2174>

between peoples. These views can take the form of social actions, practices or beliefs, or political systems in which different races are ranked as inherently superior or inferior to each other, based on presumed shared inheritable traits, abilities, or qualities.<sup>[2][3][5]</sup>

- **Environmental racism** - Environmental racism is a concept used to describe environmental injustice that occurs in practice and in policy within a racialized context.<sup>[1]</sup> In a national context, environmental racism criticizes inequalities between urban and exurban areas after white flight. Charges of environmental racism can also prompt usages of civil rights legislation like the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to prosecute environmental crimes in the areas in which racialized people live. Internationally, environmental racism can refer to the effects of the global waste trade, like the negative health impact of the export of electronic waste to China from developed countries.
- **Institutional/systemic racism** - Institutional racism (also known as systemic racism) is a form of racism expressed in the practice of social and political institutions. It is reflected in disparities regarding wealth, income, criminal justice, employment, housing, health care, political power, and education, among other factors. The term "institutional racism" was coined by Stokely Carmichael and Charles V. Hamilton. Carmichael and Hamilton wrote that while individual racism is often identifiable because of its overt nature, institutional racism is less perceptible because of its "less overt, far more subtle" nature. Institutional racism "originates in the operation of established and respected forces in the society, and thus receives far less public condemnation than [individual racism]".<sup>[2]</sup>
- **Interpersonal racism** - Interpersonal racism is a component of individual-level racism and has been defined as "directly perceived discriminatory interactions between individuals whether in their institutional roles or as public and private individuals" (Krieger, 1999, p. 301). Interpersonal racism includes maltreatment that the targeted individual attributes, at least in part, to conscious or unconscious racial/ethnic bias on the part of the perpetrator of the maltreatment.
- **Classism** - Classism is differential treatment based on social class or perceived social class. Classism is the systematic oppression of subordinated class groups to advantage and strengthen the dominant class groups. It's the systematic assignment of characteristics of worth and ability based on social class.
- **Internalized racism** - Internalized racism is a form of internalized oppression, defined by sociologist Karen D. Pyke as the "internalization of racial oppression by the racially subordinated."<sup>[1]</sup> In her study *The Psychology of Racism*, Robin Nicole Johnson emphasizes that internalized racism involves both "conscious and unconscious acceptance of a racial hierarchy in which whites are consistently ranked above people of color."<sup>[2]</sup> These definitions encompass a wide range of instances, including, but not limited to, belief in negative racial stereotypes, adaptations to white cultural standards, and thinking that supports the status quo (i.e. denying that racism exists).<sup>[3]</sup>
- **Structural racism** - Structural Racism in the U.S. is the normalization and legitimization of an array of dynamics – historical, cultural, institutional, and interpersonal – that routinely advantage whites while producing cumulative and chronic adverse outcomes for people of color. It is a system of hierarchy and inequity, primarily characterized by white supremacy – the preferential treatment, privilege, and power for white people at the expense of Black, Latino, Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, Arab, and other racially oppressed people.
- **Prejudice** - Prejudice<sup>[1]</sup> is an affective feeling towards a person based on their perceived group membership. The word is often used to refer to a preconceived, usually unfavorable, evaluation of another person based on that person's political affiliation, sex, gender, beliefs, values, social class, age, disability, religion, sexuality, race/ethnicity, language, nationality, beauty, occupation, education, criminality, sport team affiliation or other personal characteristics.<sup>[2]</sup>

- **Discrimination** - In human social behavior, discrimination is prejudiced treatment or consideration of, or making a distinction towards, a being based on the group, class, or category to which they are perceived to belong. These include age, caste, criminal record, height, disability, family status, gender identity, gender expression, generation, genetic characteristics, marital status, nationality, color, race and ethnicity, religion, sex and sex characteristics, sexual orientation, social class, species, as well as other categories. Discrimination consists of treatment of an individual or group, based on their actual or perceived membership in a certain group or social category, "in a way that is worse than the way people are usually treated".<sup>[1]</sup> It involves the group's initial reaction or interaction going on to influence the individual's actual behavior towards the group leader or the group, restricting members of one group from opportunities or privileges that are available to another group, leading to the exclusion of the individual or entities based on illogical or irrational decision making.<sup>[2]</sup>
- **Systemic Racism:** Systemic racism today is composed of intersecting, overlapping, and codependent racist institutions, policies, practices, ideas, and behaviors that give an unjust amount of resources, rights, and power to white people while denying them to people of color. Developed by sociologist Joe Feagin, systemic racism is a popular way of explaining, within the social sciences and humanities, the significance of race and racism both historically and in today's world. Feagin describes the concept and the realities attached to it in his well-researched and readable book, *Racist America: Roots, Current Realities, & Future Reparations*. In it, Feagin uses historical evidence and demographic statistics to create a theory that asserts that the United States was founded in racism since the Constitution classified black people as the property of whites. Feagin illustrates that the legal recognition of racialized slavery is a cornerstone of a racist social system in which resources and rights were and are unjustly given to white people and unjustly denied to people of color. (thoughtco.com)
- The effects of systemic racism are pervasive in Indigenous communities. The causal pathways driving racism and its negative effects are complex, intertwined, and deeply embedded in diverse systems, including economic, political, and psychosocial. Below are some examples of how systemic racism leads to health inequities that are reflective of the broad disadvantage that Indigenous communities face:
  - Colonial policies: Mandatory residential schools, the outlawing of Indigenous gatherings and ceremonies, forced community dislocations, and discriminatory child welfare legislation have had lasting and intergenerational effects on mental health, family relationships, and Indigenous language and culture.
  - Limited healthy food choices: Dispossession of traditional lands has interfered with traditional economies and access to traditional foods; urban, rural, and remote Indigenous peoples often have inadequate access to affordable healthy and nutritious foods.
  - Inadequate living conditions: Indigenous peoples living in cities and rural and remote communities are faced with inadequate housing and living conditions. For example, the peoples of Inuit Nunangat experience overcrowding and poor respiratory health from low-quality housing stock, leading to elevated rates of TB infection. There is also increased overcrowding in housing.
  - Substandard health care: In addition to the differential access to acute cardiac imaging and intervention, studies describe high levels of perceived interpersonal racism toward Indigenous patients from health care providers across health care settings. Experiences of racism, including unfair treatment as a result of racism, have been reported in multiple Indigenous survey studies, across geographic settings, with prevalence rates ranging from 39 percent to 78 per cent. In some

cases, this is so severe that Indigenous patients strategized on how to manage racism before seeking care in the emergency room.

- **Islamophobia** - Islamophobia is the fear, hatred of, or prejudice against the Islamic religion or Muslims generally, especially when seen as a geopolitical force or the source of terrorism.
- **Xenophobia** - Xenophobia is the fear or hatred of that which is perceived to be foreign or strange. It is an expression of the perceived conflict between an ingroup and an outgroup and may manifest in suspicion by one of the other's activities, a desire to eliminate their presence, and fear of losing national, ethnic, or racial identity.
- **Anti-semitism** - Anti-semitism is hostility to, prejudice, or discrimination against Jews.<sup>[1][2][3]</sup> A person who holds such positions is called an anti-semite. Anti-semitism is generally considered to be a form of racism. Anti-semitism may be manifested in many ways, ranging from expressions of hatred of or discrimination against individual Jews to organized pogroms by mobs, state police, or even military attacks on entire Jewish communities. Anti-zionism is not anti-semitism.
- **Intersectionality** - Intersectionality is a theoretical framework for understanding how aspects of one's social and political identities (e.g., gender, race, class, sexuality, disability, etc.) might combine to create unique modes of discrimination. It aims to broaden the agenda of the first waves of feminism, which largely focused on the experiences of white, middle-class women. The broad agenda means that intersectionality is used to find combinations of injustices that are felt by members of society. For example, a black woman might face discrimination from a company that is not distinctly due to her race (because the company does not discriminate against black men) nor her gender (because the company does not discriminate against white women), but by a unique combination of the two. Intersectional feminism aims to separate itself from white feminism by acknowledging the fact that all women have different experiences and identities.<sup>[1]</sup> It is a qualitative analytic framework that identifies how interlocking systems of power affect those who are most marginalized in society.<sup>[2]</sup>
- **Zionism** - Zionism is a political ideology, a form of Jewish nationalism. Zionism is a set of beliefs that drove the founding of the State of Israel in Palestine. Also defined as the nationalist movement of the Jewish people that espouses the re-establishment of and support for a Jewish state in the territory defined as the historic Land of Israel (roughly corresponding to Canaan, the Holy Land, or the region of Palestine). Anti-Zionism is not anti-semitism, it is the opposition to Zionism, the racist, apartheid policies of the Israeli state. Anti-Zionism is Anti Racist.
- **“ISM”** - a system of oppression based on target identity (race, sex, etc)

Racism, sexism, heterosexism (homophobia), ageism, ableism, classism, xenophobia, religious prejudice, and other forms of oppression have damaged us all. All the -isms are connected.

Beyond this, the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic has unleashed an increased amount of racism in this country. There have been a number of documented instances of harassment and physical violence targeting Asian people since the outbreak of the coronavirus, as well as the use of stigmatizing terms like “Chinese Virus” to denote COVID-19. The President of the United States has continued to spew hate, racism, xenophobia, and Islamophobia since he began campaigning for office. COVID-19 has exacerbated the President’s racism towards our commUNITY members, and throughout the world, as a number of violent attacks have been made towards Asian Americans.

The World Health Organization defines “public health” as “the art and science of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organized efforts of society” and those



efforts “aim to provide conditions under which people can... be healthy, improve their health and well-being, or prevent the deterioration of their health.”

The United States Office of Disease Prevention recognizes that discrimination negatively impacts health outcomes.

The negative repercussions of historical racism, including but not limited to, discriminatory lending practices of the 20th century known as “redlining,” impact current outcomes regarding access to nutritious food, economic security, educational achievement, rates of lead poisoning, and infant mortality.

Research indicates that adverse childhood experiences are disproportionately experienced by black children when compared to white children thus having negative impacts on academic, behavioral, and physical health outcomes of black children.

Statistics show a national disparity between black and white infant mortality rates, and the State consistently ranks among the worst states concerning black infant mortality rates.

The rates of chronic diseases, including asthma, diabetes, and hypertension, are significantly higher in predominantly black neighborhoods.

The Department of Health and Human Services defines the social determinants of health as conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age, which affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. Social determinants of health include access to resources like safe and affordable housing, education, public safety, availability of healthy foods, local emergency/health services, and environments free of life-threatening toxins. Beyond genetic predispositions or individual life choices, the World Health Organization notes that the social determinants of health predict a person’s life expectancy. By these means, structural racism threatens public health by hindering equitable access to the social determinants of health.

Utilizing an intersectional framework, it is clear that discrimination based on race can be linked to disadvantages for a number of people with marginalized identities, in particular the poor or unhoused, queer and trans, disabled, Muslim, immigrant, and Indigenous communities. JP Massar’ because higher levels of discrimination are associated with an elevated risk to a broad range of diseases, for instance, contraction of heart disease, cancer, and HIV. And everyday over 200 Black people die prematurely due to health inequities between Whites and Blacks.

Like many cities in the United States, the City of Berkeley has a long history of racism. Studies conducted on Berkeley’s employment practices and modes of policing have demonstrated structural racism and discrimination at the core of the City’s functions. Waves of racial housing segregation, codified by redlining in the past, and currently operating through gentrification and displacement, is a major factor influencing racial/ethnic disparities in health outcomes. The 2018 Berkeley Health Status Report demonstrated that within the City of Berkeley, African Americans and other People of Color die prematurely and are more likely to experience a wide variety of adverse health conditions throughout their lives. Specifically, Black people make up a disproportionately high percentage of the city’s homeless population, are less likely to attain higher education, are more likely to live in poverty, and have poorer health outcomes, morbidity, and mortality from cardiovascular disease, heart disease, cancers, and birth complications.

The Alameda County Department of Public Health has demonstrated racial/ethnic health disparity in our community, noting a 17-year difference in life expectancy between a child born in West Oakland and the Oakland Hills. Supervisor Keith Carson has begun a process of trying to address health inequities through the launch of the Health Matters Initiative.

Additionally, the City of Richmond also views racism as a major threat to public health and has adopted a Health in all Policies Ordinance in order to rectify health inequities. Other cities throughout the United States, like Kansas City, Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, and Cleveland, have also come to view racism as a public health crisis, passing legislation to turn the tide and ensure everyone (regardless of their race or ethnicity) has the opportunity to live healthy, fulfilling lives.

On any given night, more than 1,000 Berkeley residents do not have shelter (i.e. living outdoors in tents, on sidewalks, or in vehicles) according to the Alameda County 2019 Point-In-Time Count. A growing number of residents are housing insecure and at risk of becoming homeless. A majority of unhoused Berkeley residents are people of color, seniors, and disabled. Many have passed away.

The City of Berkeley should follow the example of other cities that have declared racism as a threat to public health. We should adopt a Health in All Policies Ordinance, and take all necessary legislative steps to ensure health equity in our city. Minimally this will involve the curation of a number of town hall sessions to hear the concerns of marginalized community members and with careful collaborations, develop a strategic plan for health equity. Additionally, the City should provide training on ways to reduce implicit bias for City employees and interested members of the community. This will allow us to critically evaluate our prejudices and take the initiative to reduce bias and remove racist barriers to the social determinants of health.

The City must recognize that racism is a public health crisis that affects all members of our society both locally and nationwide and deserves action from all levels of government and civil society.

At the June 11 “Race, health, and policing in a time of pandemic: a virtual town hall,” the City Manager and the Public Health Officer stated racism is an epidemic.

The time is *now* to declare racism as a public health threat in our community. The time has come to change business as usual. We must confront the systemic racism that has permeated society throughout our lifetime. Because in the words of Ibram X. Kendi, “the only way to undo racism is to consistently identify and describe it - and then to dismantle it.”

The City Council should support the establishment of a working group to address these issues and to: seek solutions to reshape the discourse and actively engage all citizens in racial justice work; continue to work to build alliances with organizations that are confronting racism and encourage partners to recognize racism as a public health crisis; continue to promote racially equitable economic and workforce development; continue to promote racially equitable hiring and promotion of all employees including City employees; and advocate and draft relevant policies that prioritize the health of people of color and mitigate exposure to adverse childhood experiences and trauma in childhood.

California Government Code 54956.5 states: “An emergency, which shall be defined as a work stoppage, crippling activity, or other activity that severely impairs public health, safety, or both, as determined by a majority of the members of the legislative body.”

With multiple crises to contend with (COVID-19 pandemic, racism, etc), and all the reasons stated earlier, it is the utmost urgency to declare racism as a nuisance and a crisis to public health and safety in the City of Berkeley, as well as adopt it as an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety.

#### FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

It is estimated \$50,000 for hiring of facilitators and the coordination of 3-5 town hall sessions.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

With a focus on health equity and the adoption of a 'Health in All Policies' ordinance, a number of environmental benefits should result in the City, including reduced air pollution, cleaner waterways, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions by being proactive about ending environmental racism.

#### CONTACT PERSON

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Councilmember District 2  
510.981.7120  
[cdavila@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:cdavila@cityofberkeley.info)

#### ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution
2. Racism - Public Health Crisis, published on May 5, 2017  
Leslie Gregory, Founder and Director of Right to Health in Portland, Oregon  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oKq-870R3I&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oKq-870R3I&feature=emb_title)
3. City of Richmond Health in All Policies Ordinance:  
<http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/6999>

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28. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c\\_s5rtcAJYg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c_s5rtcAJYg)

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF BERKELEY TO DECLARE RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS, A THREAT AND SAFETY ISSUE IN THE CITY OF BERKELEY

WHEREAS, There is clear data that proves racism negatively impacts the lives of people of color in the City of Berkeley and throughout the County and Nation.

WHEREAS, Almost all 400 years of African American's experience was under enslavement and Jim Crow laws and upheld White Supremacy that provided preferential opportunity to some, while at the same time subjected people of color, especially African Americans to hardship and disadvantages in all areas of life.

WHEREAS, Racism – not race - causes disproportionately high rates of homelessness, incarceration, poor education and health outcomes, and economic hardship for African Americans in this country.

WHEREAS, Racism acts on systemic, institutional, structural and interpersonal levels, all of which operate throughout time and across generations.

WHEREAS, Racism is defined as “an organized social system in which the dominant racial group categorizes and ranks people into social groups called “races” and uses its power to devalue, disempower, and differentially allocate valued societal resources and opportunities to groups defined as inferior”<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Structural racism has profound public health impacts. Now, in this critical moment of a global pandemic caused by COVID-19, previous health disparities are being exacerbated by the lack of infrastructure and provisions of basic resources afforded to marginalized communities. While coronavirus does not seem to discriminate against whom it infects, it does have differential impacts on people who were already in a compromised position in society, due to socioeconomic factors, access to healthcare and housing, and suffering from a compromised immune system due to the effects of stress, the trauma experience of discrimination and the impacts of living in communities that are disproportionately impacted by environmental injustice.

WHEREAS, Racism can take on many principal domains, including structural/institutional, cultural, and individual-level discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Racism is the belief that groups of humans possess different behavioral traits corresponding to physical appearance, and can be divided based on the superiority of one race over another; and

WHEREAS, Racism Forms are defined as:

- **Racism** - Racism is the belief that groups of humans possess different behavioral traits corresponding to physical appearance, and can be divided based on the superiority of one race over another.<sup>[1][2][3][4]</sup> It may also mean prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism

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<sup>2</sup> Williams, David R., Jourdyn A. Lawrence, and Brigitte A. Davis. "Racism and health: evidence and needed research." *Annual review of public health* 40 (2019): 105-125.

directed against other people because they are of a different race or ethnicity.<sup>[2][3]</sup>

Modern variants of racism are often based in social perceptions of biological differences between peoples. These views can take the form of social actions, practices or beliefs, or political systems in which different races are ranked as inherently superior or inferior to each other, based on presumed shared inheritable traits, abilities, or qualities.<sup>[2][3][5]</sup>

- **Environmental racism** - Environmental racism is a concept used to describe environmental injustice that occurs in practice and in policy within a racialized context.<sup>[1]</sup> In a national context, environmental racism criticizes inequalities between urban and exurban areas after white flight. Charges of environmental racism can also prompt usages of civil rights legislation like the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to prosecute environmental crimes in the areas in which racialized people live. Internationally, environmental racism can refer to the effects of the global waste trade, like the negative health impact of the export of electronic waste to China from developed countries.
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- **Interpersonal racism** - Interpersonal racism is a component of individual-level racism and has been defined as "directly perceived discriminatory interactions between individuals whether in their institutional roles or as public and private individuals" (Krieger, 1999, p. 301). Interpersonal racism includes maltreatment that the targeted individual attributes, at least in part, to conscious or unconscious racial/ethnic bias on the part of the perpetrator of the maltreatment.
- **Classism** - Classism is differential treatment based on social class or perceived social class. Classism is the systematic oppression of subordinated class groups to advantage and strengthen the dominant class groups. It's the systematic assignment of characteristics of worth and ability based on social class.
- **Internalized racism** - Internalized racism is a form of internalized oppression, defined by sociologist Karen D. Pyke as the "internalization of racial oppression by the racially subordinated."<sup>[1]</sup> In her study *The Psychology of Racism*, Robin Nicole Johnson emphasizes that internalized racism involves both "conscious and unconscious acceptance of a racial hierarchy in which whites are consistently ranked above people of color."<sup>[2]</sup> These definitions encompass a wide range of instances, including, but not limited to, belief in negative racial stereotypes, adaptations to white cultural standards, and thinking that supports the status quo (i.e. denying that racism exists).<sup>[3]</sup>
- **Structural racism** - Structural Racism in the U.S. is the normalization and legitimization of an array of dynamics – historical, cultural, institutional, and interpersonal – that routinely advantage whites while producing cumulative and chronic adverse outcomes for people of color. It is a system of hierarchy and inequity, primarily characterized by white supremacy – the preferential treatment, privilege, and power for white people at the expense of Black, Latino, Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, Arab, and other racially oppressed people.
- **Prejudice** - Prejudice<sup>[1]</sup> is an affective feeling towards a person based on their perceived group membership. The word is often used to refer to a preconceived, usually unfavorable, evaluation of another person based on that person's political affiliation, sex, gender, beliefs, values, social class, age, disability, religion, sexuality, race/ethnicity,

language, nationality, beauty, occupation, education, criminality, sport team affiliation or other personal characteristics.<sup>[2]</sup>

- **Discrimination** - In human social behavior, discrimination is prejudiced treatment or consideration of, or making a distinction towards, a being based on the group, class, or category to which they are perceived to belong. These include age, caste, criminal record, height, disability, family status, gender identity, gender expression, generation, genetic characteristics, marital status, nationality, color, race and ethnicity, religion, sex and sex characteristics, sexual orientation, social class, species, as well as other categories. Discrimination consists of treatment of an individual or group, based on their actual or perceived membership in a certain group or social category, "in a way that is worse than the way people are usually treated".<sup>[1]</sup> It involves the group's initial reaction or interaction going on to influence the individual's actual behavior towards the group leader or the group, restricting members of one group from opportunities or privileges that are available to another group, leading to the exclusion of the individual or entities based on illogical or irrational decision making.<sup>[2]</sup>
- **Systemic Racism:** Systemic racism today is composed of intersecting, overlapping, and codependent racist institutions, policies, practices, ideas, and behaviors that give an unjust amount of resources, rights, and power to white people while denying them to people of color. Developed by sociologist Joe Feagin, systemic racism is a popular way of explaining, within the social sciences and humanities, the significance of race and racism both historically and in today's world. Feagin describes the concept and the realities attached to it in his well-researched and readable book, *Racist America: Roots, Current Realities, & Future Reparations*. In it, Feagin uses historical evidence and demographic statistics to create a theory that asserts that the United States was founded in racism since the Constitution classified black people as the property of whites. Feagin illustrates that the legal recognition of racialized slavery is a cornerstone of a racist social system in which resources and rights were and are unjustly given to white people and unjustly denied to people of color. (thoughtco.com)
- The effects of systemic racism are pervasive in Indigenous communities. The causal pathways driving racism and its negative effects are complex, intertwined, and deeply embedded in diverse systems, including economic, political, and psychosocial. Below are some examples of how systemic racism leads to health inequities that are reflective of the broad disadvantage that Indigenous communities face:
  - Colonial policies: Mandatory residential schools, the outlawing of Indigenous gatherings and ceremonies, forced community dislocations, and discriminatory child welfare legislation have had lasting and intergenerational effects on mental health, family relationships, and Indigenous language and culture.
  - Limited healthy food choices: Dispossession of traditional lands has interfered with traditional economies and access to traditional foods; urban, rural, and remote Indigenous peoples often have inadequate access to affordable healthy and nutritious foods.
  - Inadequate living conditions: Indigenous peoples living in cities and rural and remote communities are faced with inadequate housing and living conditions. For example, the peoples of Inuit Nunangat experience overcrowding and poor respiratory health from low-quality housing stock, leading to elevated rates of TB infection. There is also increased overcrowding in housing.
  - Substandard health care: In addition to the differential access to acute cardiac imaging and intervention, studies describe high levels of perceived interpersonal racism toward Indigenous patients from health care providers across health care settings. Experiences of racism, including unfair treatment as a result of racism, have been reported in multiple Indigenous survey studies, across geographic

settings, with prevalence rates ranging from 39 percent to 78 per cent. In some cases, this is so severe that Indigenous patients strategized on how to manage racism before seeking care in the emergency room.

- **Islamophobia** - Islamophobia is the fear, hatred of, or prejudice against the Islamic religion or Muslims generally, especially when seen as a geopolitical force or the source of terrorism.
- **Xenophobia** - Xenophobia is the fear or hatred of that which is perceived to be foreign or strange. It is an expression of the perceived conflict between an ingroup and an outgroup and may manifest in suspicion by one of the other's activities, a desire to eliminate their presence, and fear of losing national, ethnic, or racial identity.
- **Anti-semitism** - Anti-semitism is hostility to, prejudice, or discrimination against Jews.<sup>[1][2][3]</sup> A person who holds such positions is called an anti-semite. Anti-semitism is generally considered to be a form of racism. Anti-semitism may be manifested in many ways, ranging from expressions of hatred of or discrimination against individual Jews to organized pogroms by mobs, state police, or even military attacks on entire Jewish communities. Anti-zionism is not anti-semitism.
- **Intersectionality** - Intersectionality is a theoretical framework for understanding how aspects of one's social and political identities (e.g., gender, race, class, sexuality, disability, etc.) might combine to create unique modes of discrimination. It aims to broaden the agenda of the first waves of feminism, which largely focused on the experiences of white, middle-class women. The broad agenda means that intersectionality is used to find combinations of injustices that are felt by members of society. For example, a black woman might face discrimination from a company that is not distinctly due to her race (because the company does not discriminate against black men) nor her gender (because the company does not discriminate against white women), but by a unique combination of the two. Intersectional feminism aims to separate itself from white feminism by acknowledging the fact that all women have different experiences and identities.<sup>[1]</sup> It is a qualitative analytic framework that identifies how interlocking systems of power affect those who are most marginalized in society.<sup>[2]</sup>
- **Zionism** - Zionism is a political ideology, a form of Jewish nationalism. Zionism is a set of beliefs that drove the founding of the State of Israel in Palestine. Also defined as the nationalist movement of the Jewish people that espouses the re-establishment of and support for a Jewish state in the territory defined as the historic Land of Israel (roughly corresponding to Canaan, the Holy Land, or the region of Palestine). Anti-Zionism is not anti-semitism, it is the opposition to Zionism, the racist, apartheid policies of the Israeli state. Anti-Zionism is Anti Racist.
- **“ISM”** - a system of oppression based on target identity (race, sex, etc)

WHEREAS, Racism, sexism, heterosexism (homophobia), ageism, ableism, classism, xenophobia, religious prejudice, and other forms of oppression have damaged us all. All the -isms are connected; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic has unleashed an increased amount of racism in this country. There have been a number of documented instances of harassment and physical violence targeting Asian people since the outbreak of the coronavirus, as well as the use of stigmatizing terms like “Chinese Virus” to denote COVID-19. The President of the United States has continued to spew hate, racism, xenophobia, and Islamophobia since he began campaigning for office. COVID-19 has exacerbated the President’s racism towards our commUNITY members, and throughout the world, as a number of violent attacks have been made towards Asian Americans; and



WHEREAS, Structural racism is supported by and reinforced in multiple societal systems, including the housing, labor, and credit markets, as well as education, criminal justice, the economy, and health care systems; and

WHEREAS, Sequencing the human genome has revealed that racial groups are not genetically discrete, reliably measured, or scientifically meaningful, and thus “race” is a social construction, not a biological category<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, A number of epidemiological studies have demonstrated the negative impacts of racism on both physical and mental health<sup>4</sup>, with racism acting through a number of pathways to increase stress and allostatic load, which have been associated with chronic disease and mortality, diminish participation in healthy behaviors, and result in greater exposure to physical violence; and

WHEREAS, this Council believes that the time is now to declare racism a public health crisis in our community; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization defines “public health” as “the art and science of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organized efforts of society” and those efforts “aim to provide conditions under which people can... be healthy, improve their health and well-being, or prevent the deterioration of their health”; and

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

WHEREAS, the Social Determinants of Health – the social and material factors that influence health outcomes - impact life-long outcomes beginning even before birth; and

WHEREAS, the negative repercussions of historical racism, including but not limited to discriminatory lending practices of the 20th century known as “redlining,” impact current outcomes regarding access to nutritious food, economic security, educational achievement, rates of lead poisoning, wealth accumulation, and infant mortality; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that adverse childhood experiences are disproportionately experienced by black children when compared to white children thus having negative impacts on academic, behavioral, and physical health outcomes of black children; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Health and Human Services defines social determinants of health as “conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks,” and has highlighted access to resources like safe and affordable housing, education, public safety, availability of healthy foods, local emergency/health services, and environments free of life-threatening toxins as major foci for community health promotion<sup>5</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Principally racism works to compromise public health by hindering equitable access to housing, employment, education, and safety, which are social determinants of health; and

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<sup>3</sup> Smedley, Audrey, and Brian D. Smedley. "Race as biology is fiction, racism as a social problem is real: Anthropological and historical perspectives on the social construction of race." *American Psychologist* 60.1 (2005): 16.

<sup>4</sup> Paradies, Yin, et al. "Racism as a determinant of health: a systematic review and meta-analysis." *PLoS one* 10.9 (2015): e0138511.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-of-health>

WHEREAS, On any given night, more than 1,000 Berkeley residents do not have shelter (i.e. living outdoors in tents, on sidewalks, or in vehicles) according to the Alameda County 2019 Point-In-Time Count. A growing number of residents are housing insecure and at risk of becoming homeless. A majority of unhoused Berkeley residents are people of color, seniors, and disabled. Many have passed away; and

WHEREAS, The Alameda County Public Health Department has stated their vision for health equity in our county, declaring that “every resident – no matter who you are, where you live, how much money you make, or the color of your skin – should have the opportunity to lead a healthy, fulfilling, and productive life”; and

WHEREAS, The neighboring City of Richmond has established a Health Equity Partnership with the goal of addressing “avoidable inequalities by equalizing the conditions for health for all groups, especially for those who have experienced socioeconomic disadvantage or historical injustices (such as racism)”<sup>6</sup> and adopted a Health in All Policies Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Health in All Policies is a healthcare framework proposed by the World Health Organization, also known as “healthy public policy,” which acknowledges health begins in the places that people live, work, learn, worship, and play, and more so than individual choices, health is influenced by a plethora of societal factors, such as policies related to agriculture, education, the environment, fiscal planning, housing, and transport<sup>7</sup>; and

WHEREAS, The City of Richmond has developed a toolkit for implementation of Health in All Policies and views this ordinance as an “integrated and comprehensive approach to bring health, well-being, and equity considerations into the development and implementation of policies, programs, and services of traditionally non-health related government systems or agencies”<sup>8</sup>

WHEREAS, Other cities in the country have introduced legislation declaring racism a threat to public health, for instance, Pittsburgh, PA,<sup>9</sup> proposed a trio of bills that would declare racism a public health crisis in the City, establish a leadership forum, and invest in a fund to eliminate racial inequalities and barriers; and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee, WI,<sup>10</sup> passed legislation declaring racism a public health crisis and is undergoing a process to advocate for policies that improve health for communities of color and will train city employees to understand how racism impacts residents; and

WHEREAS, Kansas City, MI,<sup>11</sup> introduced a resolution likewise declaring racism a public health crisis, tasking the city manager to establish a comprehensive plan to address inequities that leave black men and other people of color vulnerable to early death; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland, OH, passed a resolution also declaring racism to be a public health crisis, creating a working group to promote racial equity in their City that seeks solutions to reshape the discourse and actively engage all citizens in racial justice work; continues to work

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/2574/Richmond-Health-Equity-Partnership-RHEP>

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/109146/E89260.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/109146/E89260.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/27173/Tool-Kit-DRAFT-52813-v3?bidId=>

<sup>9</sup> <https://triblive.com/local/pittsburgh-allegheeny/pittsburgh-councilmen-want-racism-to-be-treated-as-a-public-health-crisis/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://ips-dc.org/racism-is-a-public-health-crisis/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.kansascity.com/opinion/editorials/article234471712.html>

to build alliances with organizations that are confronting racism and encourage partners to recognize racism as a public health crisis; continues to promote racially equitable economic and workforce development; continues to promote racially equitable hiring and promotion of all employees including City employees; and advocates and draft relevant policies that prioritize the health of people of color and mitigate exposure to adverse childhood experiences and trauma in childhood; and

WHEREAS, Increasing opportunities for good health requires investment in the municipality and community infrastructure by facilitating access to parks, safe walkable streets, grocery stores, quality housing, public transportation, good jobs, strong local business, and financial institutions, as well as clean air and water; and

WHEREAS, The Alameda County Place Matters Initiative<sup>12</sup>, spearheaded by Supervisor Keith Carson, was successful in its attempts to address and analyze social determinants of health, including criminal justice, economics, education, housing, land-use, and transportation; and

WHEREAS, The City of Berkeley's Strategic Plan includes goals to 'Champion and demonstrate social and racial equity' and 'Be a global leader in... advancing environmental justice'; and

WHEREAS, The City of Berkeley Health Status Report of 2018<sup>13</sup> demonstrated that in Berkeley, African Americans and other People of Color die prematurely and are more likely than White people to experience a wide variety of adverse health conditions throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS, The Health Status Report specifically highlights how African Americans make up a disproportionately high percentage of Berkeley's homeless population (50%), earn 3.4x less than White families, are 2.8x less likely to have a college degree, and have a 9x higher teenage birth rate than White families, and additionally, at every life-stage African Americans have poorer health outcomes, including lower birth weight, cardiovascular disease, heart disease, cancer, asthma, and hypertension; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley's historical legacy of redlining (the process by which mortgage lenders determined the value of neighborhoods and whether to provide loans in those areas according to the racial composition and socioeconomic status of residents) has had a lingering impact of racial/ethnic segregation and the ability of Black families to build intergenerational wealth through home-ownership, particularly in South Berkeley and District 2<sup>14</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Gentrification, the process by which the influx of capital and higher-income, higher educated residents, move into working-class neighborhoods, has strongly impacted the Bay Area and has resulted in displacement (forced movement attributable to changes in housing conditions) in 48% of neighborhoods<sup>15</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Between the years 2000-2015, Berkeley (specifically District 2), has experienced a change in median rent over 50%, resulting in displacement of low-income communities of color<sup>16</sup>; and

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3945449/>

<sup>13</sup> [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Health\\_Human\\_Services/Level\\_3\\_-\\_Public\\_Health/health-status-summary-report-2018.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Health_Human_Services/Level_3_-_Public_Health/health-status-summary-report-2018.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2018/09/20/redlining-the-history-of-berkeleys-segregated-neighborhoods>

<sup>15</sup> [https://www.urbandisplacement.org/sites/default/files/images/urban\\_displacement\\_project\\_-\\_executive\\_summary.pdf](https://www.urbandisplacement.org/sites/default/files/images/urban_displacement_project_-_executive_summary.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.urbandisplacement.org/rentchangemap>

WHEREAS, The Center for Disease Control has linked gentrification with negative health outcomes for women, children, the elderly, and racial/ethnic minorities, through processes which trigger stress, and increase exposure to injury, violence and crime, mental health disorders, and social and environmental hazards<sup>17</sup>; and

WHEREAS, The City of Berkeley as an employer has come under scrutiny for the way it has discriminated against Black employees, warranting investigations by an outside consulting firm (Mason Tillman)<sup>18</sup> to assess the response to labor grievances raised by people of color; and

WHEREAS, An investigative study by the Center for Policing Equity also demonstrated discrimination by Berkeley Police in their detainment and treatment of people color, noting that Black people were 6.5x more likely to be stopped by BPD than White people while driving, and 4.5x more likely to be stopped on foot, and additionally Black people were 4x more likely to be searched compared to Whites<sup>19</sup>; and

WHEREAS, In addition to struggling with racism, the City of Berkeley is confronted with issues of Islamophobia, xenophobia, transphobia, and the dehumanization of homeless people; and

WHEREAS, Implicit bias is defined as the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in a subconscious manner, encompassing both favorable and unfavorable assessments that cause us to have feelings and attitudes about other people based on characteristics such as race, ethnicity, age, gender, and appearance<sup>20</sup>; and

WHEREAS, A number of tools, programs, and trainings exist to help individuals and organizations reduce their implicit bias, with strategies involving stereotype replacement, counter-stereotypic imaging, individuation, perspective taking, increasing opportunities for contact with individuals from different groups, and partnership building<sup>21</sup>; and

WHEREAS, The Congressional Black Caucus sent a letter to the Center of Disease Control asking for states to report statistics of COVID-19 morbidity and mortality by race and ethnicity, and data emerged that Black people in Milwaukee and Illinois are dying of coronavirus at disproportionately high rates<sup>22</sup>; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control finds that almost one-third of infections nationwide have affected black-Americans, even though blacks only represent 13% of the U.S. population; nearly one-third of those who passed due to COVID-19 across the country are black; and

WHEREAS, At the June 11 "Race, health, and policing in a time of pandemic: a virtual town hall," the City Manager and the Public Health Officer stated racism is an epidemic; and

WHEREAS, this Council recognizes that racism is a public health crisis that affects all members of our society both locally and nationwide and deserves action from all levels of government and civil society; and

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<sup>17</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/healthtopics/gentrification.htm>

<sup>18</sup> [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Level\\_3\\_-\\_General/Mason%20Tillman%20Associates%20Report%20051614.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Level_3_-_General/Mason%20Tillman%20Associates%20Report%20051614.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.berkeleyside.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Berkeley-Report-May-2018.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> <http://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/research/understanding-implicit-bias/>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.ihl.org/communities/blogs/how-to-reduce-implicit-bias>

<sup>22</sup> [https://cbc.house.gov/uploadedfiles/cbc-cbc\\_health\\_braintrust\\_racial\\_disparities\\_letter\\_to\\_cdc.pdf](https://cbc.house.gov/uploadedfiles/cbc-cbc_health_braintrust_racial_disparities_letter_to_cdc.pdf)

WHEREAS, The time is *now* to declare racism as a public health threat in our community. The time has come to change business as usual. We must confront the systemic racism that has permeated society throughout our lifetime. Because in the words of Ibram X. Kendi, “the only way to undo racism is to consistently identify and describe it - and then to dismantle it.”; and

WHEREAS, this Council supports the establishment of a working group to address these issues and to: seek solutions to reshape the discourse and actively engage all citizens in racial justice work; continue to work to build alliances with organizations that are confronting racism and encourage partners to recognize racism as a public health crisis; continue to promote racially equitable economic and workforce development in the city; continue to promote racially equitable hiring and promotion of all employees including City employees; and advocate and draft relevant policies that prioritize the health of people of color and mitigate exposure to adverse childhood experiences and trauma in childhood; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code 54956.5 states: “An emergency, which shall be defined as a work stoppage, crippling activity, or other activity that severely impairs public health, safety, or both, as determined by a majority of the members of the legislative body.”

WHEREAS, with multiple crises to contend with (COVID-19 pandemic, racism, etc), and all the reasons stated earlier, it is the utmost urgency to declare racism as a nuisance and a crisis to public health and safety in the City of Berkeley, as well as adopt it as an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Berkeley declare racism as a Public Health Crisis, a Threat and Safety Issue in the City of Berkeley, and commit to eliminate all socioeconomic barriers to health equity;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Declare the resolution an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health, or safety, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic and it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Budget Referral to convene a series of town hall sessions for all community members, City workers, and small business owners to discuss the concerns of people of color and marginalized community members, and develop strategies and programs (especially Mental Health Programs for the unhoused stay housed) for greater inclusivity, understanding, empathy, compassion, and unity. The purpose of these meetings should be to strengthen anti-racist capacity building and commitments within the city. This can be done by discussing the current quantitative and qualitative reality of racial justice and injustice, racism and non-racism in all areas of city life toward developing measures to ensure the achievement racial equity in Berkeley. These town halls, strategies and programs could include: the definition and lived experience of racism in systemic and institutional forms the effects and trauma caused by them, and provide resources to combat implicit bias on all levels. Community partners to consider to facilitate such workshops include Beyond Diversity: Courageous Conversations About Race and Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, City Council will establish a working group to promote racial equity as well as the development of programs to address racial equity in this City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to record COVID-19 data by race/ethnicity and to explore greater health disparities that have emerged as a result of this crisis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to hold several fundraisers at town hall sessions for black-owned small businesses, research of state and federal RFPs for the purpose of grants acquisitions for program development in the City of Berkeley that have been affected by Covid-19 and/or recent protests.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to prepare a Health in All Policies Ordinance (see attached [City of Richmond Ordinance](#)) for Council review and adoption, critically evaluating the public health impact of all legislative and budgetary proposals, especially upon people of color and marginalized community members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to adopt a mandatory requirement of 16 hours of ongoing annual online and in-person training on implicit bias, cultural sensitivity, and cultural humility for City Employees, commissioners, and community members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Direct the City Manager or his/her designee in partnership with the Berkeley Public Health Division and the Mental Health Division to develop a Strategic Plan for Health Equity, with the inclusion of a diverse group of staff with expertise in this subject matter and begin immediate implementation of recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to have an antiracism dashboard that delineates and tracks progress towards specific antiracist goals. This would involve: 1) tracking and measuring specific data that shows the extent to which racism has become a public health crisis; which would in turn enable 2) the City and the Community to dramatically reduce instances of racism, if not totally eliminate some of them; and 3) demonstrate to constituents that the other recommendations have made, and must continue to make, a tangible difference. The dashboard shall include: analyzing hospital infant mortality by race; tracking food insecurity among Berkeley residents, and correlation to racial demographics; analyzing the effects of biological weathering and resultant mental health challenges on immune strength for black individuals, and studying mental health resource availability and outreach targeting at-risk black communities; analyzing the administration of medications and health therapies by race, in an attempt to understand Berkeley health providers' position vis a vis the systemic under-prescription and under-treatment of Black patients' pain; tracking violent incidents targeting queer Black residents, and studying the availability of mental health resources and culturally competent healthcare for queer Black patients; identifying the largest sources of corporate environmental or carcinogenic pollution in Berkeley, and the racial demographics of people with prolonged exposure to those regions (i.e. workers and residents within range of toxic substances); identifying the locations of city waste storage/processing and the racial demographics of those most closely exposed; examining property taxes by neighborhood, and correlation to school resources and student racial demographics; examining the availability of stable and affordable Internet access, as necessary for all possible student activities offered and required by Berkeley public schools; Collaborate with the Berkeley Unified School District and the Vision 2020 to see how this is correlated to household racial demographics; analyzing students' realistic access to extracurricular activities such as arts and athletics; race-based differential access means that some students have less access to educational opportunities that help with physical and mental health; identifying the levels of lead and other toxins in public school buildings, and correlation to resource allocation and racial demographics among schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Submit copies of this resolution to State Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, State Senator Nancy Skinner, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, as well as various organizations such as the Berkeley NAACP, the African American Holistic Resource Center Steering Committee, and Healthy Black Families.



Leslie Gregory  
Founder/Director - RIGHT TO HEALTH

Racism - Public Health Crisis

1,354 views · May 5, 2017

14 0 SHARE SAVE ...

 **White On Race**  
14 subscribers

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Leslie Gregory, founder and director of Right to Health in Portland, Oregon, makes her case to the CDC (Center for Disease Control) for racism being a public health threat.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oKg-870R3I&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oKg-870R3I&feature=emb_title)





Cheryl Davila  
Councilmember  
District 2

**REVISED AGENDA MATERIAL**

**Meeting Date:** June 30, 2020

**Item Description:** Declare Racism as a Public Health Crisis, a Threat and Safety Issue in the  
City of Berkeley.

**Submitted by:** Councilmember Cheryl Davila

Added an additional Recommendation

Updated Racism Forms Defined



Cheryl Davila  
Councilmember  
District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR  
June 30, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmembers Cheryl Davila (Author) and Ben Bartlett (Co-Sponsor)

Subject: Declare Racism as a Public Health Crisis, a Threat and Safety Issue in the City of Berkeley.

RECOMMENDATION

Declare Racism as a Public Health Crisis, a Threat and Safety Issue in the City of Berkeley, and commit to eliminate all socioeconomic barriers to health equity. In addition:

1. Declare the resolution an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health, or safety, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic and it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption.
2. Budget Referral to convene a series of town hall sessions for all community members, City workers, and small business owners to discuss the concerns of people of color and marginalized community members, and develop strategies and programs (especially Mental Health Programs for the unhoused stay housed) for greater inclusivity, understanding, empathy, compassion, and unity. The purpose of these meetings should be to strengthen anti-racist capacity building and commitments within the city. This can be done by discussing the current quantitative and qualitative reality of racial justice and injustice, racism and non-racism in all areas of city life toward developing measures to

ensure the achievement racial equity in Berkeley. These town halls, strategies and programs could include: the definition and lived experience of racism in systemic and institutional forms the effects and trauma caused by them, and provide resources to combat implicit bias on all levels. Community partners to consider to facilitate such workshops include Beyond Diversity: Courageous Conversations About Race and Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ).

3. City Council will establish a working group to promote racial equity as well as the development of programs to address racial equity in this City.
4. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to record COVID-19 data by race/ethnicity and to explore greater health disparities that have emerged as a result of this crisis.
5. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to hold several fundraisers at town hall sessions for black-owned small businesses, research of state and federal RFPs for the purpose of grants acquisitions for program development in the City of Berkeley that have been affected by Covid-19 and/or recent protests.
6. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to prepare a Health in All Policies Ordinance (see attached City of Richmond Ordinance) for Council review and adoption, critically evaluating the public health impact of all legislative and budgetary proposals, especially upon people of color and marginalized community members.
7. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to adopt a mandatory requirement of 16 hours of ongoing annual online and in-person training on implicit bias, cultural sensitivity, and cultural humility for City Employees, commissioners, and community members; and
8. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee in partnership with the Berkeley Public Health Division and the Mental Health Division to develop a Strategic Plan for Health Equity, with the inclusion of a diverse group of staff with expertise in this subject matter and begin immediate implementation of recommendations.
- 9.
10. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to have an antiracism dashboard that delineates and tracks progress towards specific antiracist goals. This would involve: 1) tracking and measuring specific data that shows the extent to which racism has become a public health crisis; which would in turn enable 2) the City and the Community to dramatically reduce instances of racism, if not totally eliminate some of them; and 3) demonstrate to constituents that the other recommendations have made, and must continue to make, a tangible difference. The dashboard shall include: analyzing hospital infant mortality by race; tracking food insecurity among Berkeley residents, and correlation to racial demographics; analyzing the effects of biological weathering and resultant mental health challenges on immune strength for black individuals, and studying mental health resource availability and outreach targeting at-risk black communities; analyzing the administration of medications and health therapies by race, in an attempt to understand Berkeley health providers position vis a vis the systemic under-prescription and under-treatment of Black patients pain; tracking violent incidents targeting queer Black residents, and studying the availability of mental health resources and culturally competent healthcare for queer Black patients; identifying the largest sources of corporate environmental or carcinogenic pollution in Berkeley, and the racial demographics of people with prolonged exposure to those regions (i.e. workers and residents within range of toxic substances); identifying the locations of city waste storage/processing and the racial demographics of those most closely exposed; examining property taxes by neighborhood, and correlation to school resources and student racial demographics; examining the availability of stable and affordable Internet

access, as necessary for all possible student activities offered and required by Berkeley public schools;

Collaborate with the Berkeley Unified School District and the Vision 2020 to see how this is correlated to household racial demographics; analyzing students' realistic access to extracurricular activities such as arts and athletics; race-based differential access means that some students have less access to educational opportunities that help with physical and mental health; identifying the levels of lead and other toxins in public school buildings, and correlation to resource allocation and racial demographics among schools.

11. Submit copies of this resolution to State Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, State Senator Nancy Skinner, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, as well as various organizations such as the Berkeley NAACP, the African American Holistic Resource Center Steering Committee, and Healthy Black Families.

### BACKGROUND

There is clear data that proves racism negatively impacts the lives of people of color in the City of Berkeley and throughout the County and Nation.

Almost all 400 years of African American's experience was under enslavement and Jim Crow laws and upheld White Supremacy that provided preferential opportunity to some, while at the same time subjected people of color, especially African Americans to hardship and disadvantages in all areas of life.

Racism – not race - causes disproportionately high rates of homelessness, incarceration, poor education and health outcomes, and economic hardship for African Americans in this country.

Racism acts on systemic, institutional, and interpersonal levels, all of which operate throughout time and across generations.

Racism is an organized social system in which a dominant group categorizes and ranks people into social groups, "races", and uses its power to devalue, disempower, and differentially allocate valued societal resources and opportunities to groups classified as inferior. Racism can act in multiple domains, including structural/institutional, cultural, and individual-level discrimination, reinforcing ideologies of inferiority and hierarchy in media images, laws, interpersonal interactions, and opportunities. Structural or institutional racism embeds racism into policies and practices in society that provide advantages for racial groups deemed superior, while oppressing, disadvantaging, or neglecting racial groups viewed as inferior. Structural racism results in differential access to housing, employment, education, healthy food, clean air and drinking water, and exposure to violence, thus has a significant impact on public health.

Structural racism has profound public health impacts. Now, in this critical moment of a global pandemic caused by COVID-19, previous health disparities are being exacerbated by the lack of infrastructure and provisions of basic resources afforded to marginalized communities. While coronavirus does not seem to discriminate against whom it infects, it does have differential impacts on people who were already in a compromised position in society, due to

socioeconomic factors, access to healthcare and housing, and suffering from a compromised immune system due to the effects of stress, the trauma experience of discrimination and the impacts of living in communities that are disproportionately impacted by environmental injustice.

Reports are emerging, highlighting the disparity in the rates of COVID-19 outcomes for communities of color. Cities like Milwaukee, Washington DC, Detroit, Chicago, and New Orleans have experienced a disproportionate morbidity and mortality for black residents due to Coronavirus. The Congressional Black Caucus has called for all states to track public health data regarding coronavirus by race and ethnicity<sup>1</sup>. To this point, Representative Robin Kelly, Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Healthcare Braintrust, stated: "the reason more Blacks are dying from COVID-19 is a result of a history of structural racism, environmental injustice, income inequality, and the lack of resources in Black communities, which have led to the prominence of health-related risk factors such as diabetes and hypertension." According to data from the Centers for Disease Control, almost one-third of infections nationwide have affected black-Americans, even though blacks only represent 13% of the U.S. population. Additionally, an analysis done by the Associated Press found that nearly one-third of those who passed due to COVID-19 across the country are black.

### Racism Forms Defined:

- **Racism** - Racism is the belief that groups of humans possess different behavioral traits corresponding to physical appearance, and can be divided based on the superiority of one race over another.<sup>[1][2][3][4]</sup> It may also mean prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against other people because they are of a different race or ethnicity.<sup>[2][3]</sup> Modern variants of racism are often based in social perceptions of biological differences between peoples. These views can take the form of social actions, practices or beliefs, or political systems in which different races are ranked as inherently superior or inferior to each other, based on presumed shared inheritable traits, abilities, or qualities.<sup>[2][3][5]</sup>
- **Environmental racism** - Environmental racism is a concept used to describe environmental injustice that occurs in practice and in policy within a racialized context.<sup>[1]</sup> In a national context, environmental racism criticizes inequalities between urban and exurban areas after white flight. Charges of environmental racism can also prompt usages of civil rights legislation like the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to prosecute environmental crimes in the areas in which racialized people live. Internationally, environmental racism can refer to the effects of the global waste trade, like the negative health impact of the export of electronic waste to China from developed countries.
- **Institutional/systemic racism** - Institutional racism (also known as systemic racism) is a form of racism expressed in the practice of social and political institutions. It is reflected in disparities regarding wealth, income, criminal justice, employment, housing, health care, political power, and education, among other factors. The term "institutional racism" was coined by Stokely Carmichael and Charles V. Hamilton. Carmichael and Hamilton wrote that while individual racism is often identifiable because of its overt nature, institutional racism is less perceptible because of its "less overt, far more subtle" nature. Institutional racism "originates in the operation of established and respected forces in the society, and thus receives far less public condemnation than [individual racism]".<sup>[2]</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://cbc.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=2174>

- **Interpersonal racism** - Interpersonal racism is a component of individual-level racism and has been defined as “directly perceived discriminatory interactions between individuals whether in their institutional roles or as public and private individuals” (Krieger, 1999, p. 301). Interpersonal racism includes maltreatment that the targeted individual attributes, at least in part, to conscious or unconscious racial/ethnic bias on the part of the perpetrator of the maltreatment.
- **Internalized racism** - Internalized racism is a form of internalized oppression, defined by sociologist Karen D. Pyke as the “internalization of racial oppression by the racially subordinated.”<sup>[1]</sup> In her study *The Psychology of Racism*, Robin Nicole Johnson emphasizes that internalized racism involves both “conscious and unconscious acceptance of a racial hierarchy in which whites are consistently ranked above people of color.”<sup>[2]</sup> These definitions encompass a wide range of instances, including, but not limited to, belief in negative racial stereotypes, adaptations to white cultural standards, and thinking that supports the status quo (i.e. denying that racism exists).<sup>[3]</sup>
- **Structural racism** - Structural Racism in the U.S. is the normalization and legitimization of an array of dynamics – historical, cultural, institutional, and interpersonal – that routinely advantage whites while producing cumulative and chronic adverse outcomes for people of color. It is a system of hierarchy and inequity, primarily characterized by white supremacy – the preferential treatment, privilege, and power for white people at the expense of Black, Latino, Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, Arab, and other racially oppressed people.
- **Prejudice** - Prejudice<sup>[1]</sup> is an affective feeling towards a person based on their perceived group membership. The word is often used to refer to a preconceived, usually unfavorable, evaluation of another person based on that person's political affiliation, sex, gender, beliefs, values, social class, age, disability, religion, sexuality, race/ethnicity, language, nationality, beauty, occupation, education, criminality, sport team affiliation or other personal characteristics.<sup>[2]</sup>
- **Discrimination** - In human social behavior, discrimination is prejudiced treatment or consideration of, or making a distinction towards, a being based on the group, class, or category to which they are perceived to belong. These include age, caste, criminal record, height, disability, family status, gender identity, gender expression, generation, genetic characteristics, marital status, nationality, color, race and ethnicity, religion, sex and sex characteristics, sexual orientation, social class, species, as well as other categories. Discrimination consists of treatment of an individual or group, based on their actual or perceived membership in a certain group or social category, “in a way that is worse than the way people are usually treated”.<sup>[1]</sup> It involves the group's initial reaction or interaction going on to influence the individual's actual behavior towards the group leader or the group, restricting members of one group from opportunities or privileges that are available to another group, leading to the exclusion of the individual or entities based on illogical or irrational decision making.<sup>[2]</sup>
- **Systemic Racism:** Systemic racism today is composed of intersecting, overlapping, and codependent racist institutions, policies, practices, ideas, and behaviors that give an unjust amount of resources, rights, and power to white people while denying them to people of color. Developed by sociologist Joe Feagin, systemic racism is a popular way of explaining, within the social sciences and humanities, the significance of race and racism both historically and in today's world. Feagin describes the concept and the realities attached to it in his well-researched and readable book, *Racist America: Roots, Current Realities, & Future Reparations*. In it, Feagin uses historical evidence and

demographic statistics to create a theory that asserts that the United States was founded in racism since the Constitution classified black people as the property of whites. Feagin illustrates that the legal recognition of racialized slavery is a cornerstone of a racist social system in which resources and rights were and are unjustly given to white people and unjustly denied to people of color. (thoughtco.com)

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  - The effects of systemic racism are pervasive in Indigenous communities. The causal pathways driving racism and its negative effects are complex, intertwined, and deeply embedded in diverse systems, including economic, political, and psychosocial. Below are some examples of how systemic racism leads to health inequities that are reflective of the broad disadvantage that Indigenous communities face:
    - Colonial policies: Mandatory residential schools, the outlawing of Indigenous gatherings and ceremonies, forced community dislocations, and discriminatory child welfare legislation have had lasting and intergenerational effects on mental health, family relationships, and Indigenous language and culture.
    - Limited healthy food choices: Dispossession of traditional lands has interfered with traditional economies and access to traditional foods; urban, rural, and remote Indigenous peoples often have inadequate access to affordable healthy and nutritious foods.
    - Inadequate living conditions: Indigenous peoples living in cities and rural and remote communities are faced with inadequate housing and living conditions. For example, the peoples of Inuit Nunangat experience overcrowding and poor respiratory health from low-quality housing stock, leading to elevated rates of TB infection. There is also increased overcrowding in housing.
    - Substandard health care: In addition to the differential access to acute cardiac imaging and intervention, studies describe high levels of perceived interpersonal racism toward Indigenous patients from health care providers across health care settings. Experiences of racism, including unfair treatment as a result of racism, have been reported in multiple Indigenous survey studies, across geographic settings, with prevalence rates ranging from 39 percent to 78 per cent. In some cases, this is so severe that Indigenous patients

strategized on how to manage racism before seeking care in the emergency room.

- **Islamophobia** - Islamophobia is the fear, hatred of, or prejudice against the Islamic religion or Muslims generally, especially when seen as a geopolitical force or the source of terrorism.
- **Xenophobia** - Xenophobia is the fear or hatred of that which is perceived to be foreign or strange. It is an expression of the perceived conflict between an ingroup and an outgroup and may manifest in suspicion by one of the other's activities, a desire to eliminate their presence, and fear of losing national, ethnic, or racial identity.
- **Anti-semitism** - Anti-semitism is hostility to, prejudice, or discrimination against Jews.<sup>[1][2][3]</sup> A person who holds such positions is called an anti-semite. Anti-semitism is generally considered to be a form of racism. Anti-semitism may be manifested in many ways, ranging from expressions of hatred of or discrimination against individual Jews to organized pogroms by mobs, state police, or even military attacks on entire Jewish communities. Anti-zionism is not anti-semitism
- ~~**Anti-semitism** - Antisemitism is hostility to, prejudice, or discrimination against Jews.<sup>[1][2][3]</sup> A person who holds such positions is called an antisemite. Antisemitism is generally considered to be a form of racism. Antisemitism may be manifested in many ways, ranging from expressions of hatred of or discrimination against individual Jews to organized pogroms by mobs, state police, or even military attacks on entire Jewish communities.~~
- **Intersectionality** - Intersectionality is a theoretical framework for understanding how aspects of one's social and political identities (e.g., gender, race, class, sexuality, disability, etc.) might combine to create unique modes of discrimination. It aims to broaden the agenda of the first waves of feminism, which largely focused on the experiences of white, middle-class women. The broad agenda means that intersectionality is used to find combinations of injustices that are felt by members of society. For example, a black woman might face discrimination from a company that is not distinctly due to her race (because the company does not discriminate against black men) nor her gender (because the company does not discriminate against white women), but by a unique combination of the two. Intersectional feminism aims to separate itself from white feminism by acknowledging the fact that all women have different experiences and identities.<sup>[1]</sup> It is a qualitative analytic framework that identifies how interlocking systems of power affect those who are most marginalized in society.<sup>[2]</sup>
- **Zionism** - Zionism is a political ideology, a form of Jewish nationalism. Zionism is a set of beliefs that drove the founding of the State of Israel in Palestine. Also defined as the nationalist movement of the Jewish people that espouses the re-establishment of and support for a Jewish state in the territory defined as the historic Land of Israel (roughly corresponding to Canaan, the Holy Land, or the region of Palestine). Anti-Zionism is not anti-semitism, it is the opposition to Zionism, the racist, apartheid policies of the Israeli state. Anti-Zionism is Anti Racist.





- **“ISM”** - a system of oppression based on target identity (race, sex, etc)

Racism, sexism, heterosexism (homophobia), ageism, ableism, classism, xenophobia, religious prejudice, and other forms of oppression have damaged us all. All the -isms are connected.

Beyond this, the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic has unleashed an increased amount of racism in this country. There have been a number of documented instances of harassment and physical violence targeting Asian people since the outbreak of the coronavirus, as well as the use of stigmatizing terms like “Chinese Virus” to denote COVID-19. The President of the United States has continued to spew hate, racism, xenophobia, and Islamophobia since he began campaigning for office. COVID-19 has exacerbated the President’s racism towards our commUNITY members, and throughout the world, as a number of violent attacks have been made towards Asian Americans.

The World Health Organization defines “public health” as “the art and science of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organized efforts of society” and those efforts “aim to provide conditions under which people can... be healthy, improve their health and well-being, or prevent the deterioration of their health.”

The United States Office of Disease Prevention recognizes that discrimination negatively impacts health outcomes.

The negative repercussions of historical racism, including but not limited to, discriminatory lending practices of the 20th century known as “redlining,” impact current outcomes regarding access to nutritious food, economic security, educational achievement, rates of lead poisoning, and infant mortality.

Research indicates that adverse childhood experiences are disproportionately experienced by black children when compared to white children thus having negative impacts on academic, behavioral, and physical health outcomes of black children.

Statistics show a national disparity between black and white infant mortality rates, and the State consistently ranks among the worst states concerning black infant mortality rates.

The rates of chronic diseases, including asthma, diabetes, and hypertension, are significantly higher in predominantly black neighborhoods.

The Department of Health and Human Services defines the social determinants of health as conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age, which affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. Social determinants of health include access to resources like safe and affordable housing, education, public safety, availability of healthy foods, local emergency/health services, and environments free of life-threatening toxins. Beyond genetic predispositions or individual life choices, the World Health Organization notes that the social determinants of health predict a

person's life expectancy. By these means, structural racism threatens public health by hindering equitable access to the social determinants of health.

Utilizing an intersectional framework, it is clear that discrimination based on race can be linked to disadvantages for a number of people with marginalized identities, in particular the poor or unhoused, queer and trans, disabled, Muslim, immigrant, and Indigenous communities.<sup>JP</sup>

Massar 'because higher levels of discrimination are associated with an elevated risk to a broad range of diseases, for instance, contraction of heart disease, cancer, and HIV. And everyday over 200 Black people die prematurely due to health inequities between Whites and Blacks.

Like many cities in the United States, the City of Berkeley has a long history of racism. Studies conducted on Berkeley's employment practices and modes of policing have demonstrated structural racism and discrimination at the core of the City's functions. Waves of racial housing segregation, codified by redlining in the past, and currently operating through gentrification and displacement, is a major factor influencing racial/ethnic disparities in health outcomes. The 2018 Berkeley Health Status Report demonstrated that within the City of Berkeley, African Americans and other People of Color die prematurely and are more likely to experience a wide variety of adverse health conditions throughout their lives. Specifically, Black people make up a disproportionately high percentage of the city's homeless population, are less likely to attain higher education, are more likely to live in poverty, and have poorer health outcomes, morbidity, and mortality from cardiovascular disease, heart disease, cancers, and birth complications.

The Alameda County Department of Public Health has demonstrated racial/ethnic health disparity in our community, noting a 17-year difference in life expectancy between a child born in West Oakland and the Oakland Hills. Supervisor Keith Carson has begun a process of trying to address health inequities through the launch of the Health Matters Initiative.

Additionally, the City of Richmond also views racism as a major threat to public health and has adopted a Health in all Policies Ordinance in order to rectify health inequities. Other cities throughout the United States, like Kansas City, Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, and Cleveland, have also come to view racism as a public health crisis, passing legislation to turn the tide and ensure everyone (regardless of their race or ethnicity) has the opportunity to live healthy, fulfilling lives.

On any given night, more than 1,000 Berkeley residents do not have shelter (i.e. living outdoors in tents, on sidewalks, or in vehicles) according to the Alameda County 2019 Point-In-Time Count. A growing number of residents are housing insecure and at risk of becoming homeless. A majority of unhoused Berkeley residents are people of color, seniors, and disabled. Many have passed away.

The City of Berkeley should follow the example of other cities that have declared racism as a threat to public health. We should adopt a Health in All Policies Ordinance, and take all necessary legislative steps to ensure health equity in our city. Minimally this will involve the curation of a number of town hall sessions to hear the concerns of marginalized community members and with careful collaborations, develop a strategic plan for health equity. Additionally, the City should provide training on ways to reduce implicit bias for City employees and

interested members of the community. This will allow us to critically evaluate our prejudices and take the initiative to reduce bias and remove racist barriers to the social determinants of health.

The City must recognize that racism is a public health crisis that affects all members of our society both locally and nationwide and deserves action from all levels of government and civil society.

The time is *now* to declare racism as a public health threat in our community. The time has come to change business as usual. We must confront the systemic racism that has permeated society throughout our lifetime. Because in the words of Ibram X. Kendi, “the only way to undo racism is to consistently identify and describe it - and then to dismantle it.”

The City Council should support the establishment of a working group to address these issues and to: seek solutions to reshape the discourse and actively engage all citizens in racial justice work; continue to work to build alliances with organizations that are confronting racism and encourage partners to recognize racism as a public health crisis; continue to promote racially equitable economic and workforce development; continue to promote racially equitable hiring and promotion of all employees including City employees; and advocate and draft relevant policies that prioritize the health of people of color and mitigate exposure to adverse childhood experiences and trauma in childhood.

California Government Code 54956.5 states: “An emergency, which shall be defined as a work stoppage, crippling activity, or other activity that severely impairs public health, safety, or both, as determined by a majority of the members of the legislative body.”

With multiple crises to contend with (COVID-19 pandemic, racism, etc), and all the reasons stated earlier, it is the utmost urgency to declare racism as a nuisance and a crisis to public health and safety in the City of Berkeley, as well as adopt it as an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety.

#### FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

It is estimated \$50,000 for hiring of facilitators and the coordination of 3-5 town hall sessions.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

With a focus on health equity and the adoption of a ‘Health in All Policies’ ordinance, a number of environmental benefits should result in the City, including reduced air pollution, cleaner waterways, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions by being proactive about ending environmental racism.

#### CONTACT PERSON

Cheryl Davila  
Councilmember District 2  
510.981.7120  
[cdavila@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:cdavila@cityofberkeley.info)

#### ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution

2. Racism - Public Health Crisis, published on May 5, 2017  
Leslie Gregory, Founder and Director of Right to Health in Portland, Oregon  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oKg-870R3I&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oKg-870R3I&feature=emb_title)
3. City of Richmond Health in All Policies Ordinance:  
<http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/6999>

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7. <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/27173/Tool-Kit-DRAFT-52813-v3?bidId=>
8. <https://triblive.com/local/pittsburgh-allegheeny/pittsburgh-councilmen-want-racism-to-be-treated-as-a-public-health-crisis/>
9. <https://ips-dc.org/racism-is-a-public-health-crisis/>
10. <https://www.kansascity.com/opinion/editorials/article234471712.html>
11. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3945449/>
12. [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Health\\_Human\\_Services/Level\\_3\\_-\\_Public\\_Health/health-status-summary-report-2018.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Health_Human_Services/Level_3_-_Public_Health/health-status-summary-report-2018.pdf)
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16. <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/healthtopics/gentrification.htm>
17. [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Level\\_3\\_-\\_General/Mason%20Tillman%20Associates%20Report%20051614.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Level_3_-_General/Mason%20Tillman%20Associates%20Report%20051614.pdf)
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22. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/2020/04/coronavirus-disproportionately-impacts-african-americans/#close>
23. <https://societyforhealthpsychology.org/resources/research-advocacy/diversity-racism/interpersonal/>
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25. <https://cbc.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=2174>

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF BERKELEY TO DECLARE RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS, A THREAT AND SAFETY ISSUE IN THE CITY OF BERKELEY

WHEREAS, Racism is defined as “an organized social system in which the dominant racial group categorizes and ranks people into social groups called “races” and uses its power to devalue, disempower, and differentially allocate valued societal resources and opportunities to groups defined as inferior”<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Racism can take on many principal domains, including structural/institutional, cultural, and individual-level discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Racism is the belief that groups of humans possess different behavioral traits corresponding to physical appearance, and can be divided based on the superiority of one race over another. Racism Forms are defined as:

**Environmental racism** - a concept used to describe environmental injustice that occurs in practice and in policy within a racialized context.<sup>[1]</sup>

**Institutional/systemic racism** - Institutional racism (also known as systemic racism) is a form of racism expressed in the practice of social and political institutions.

**Interpersonal racism** - a component of individual-level racism and has been defined as “directly perceived discriminatory interactions between individuals whether in their institutional roles or as public and private individuals” (Krieger, 1999, p. 301).

**Internalized racism** - a form of internalized oppression, defined by sociologist Karen D. Pyke as the “internalization of racial oppression by the racially subordinated.”

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<sup>2</sup> Williams, David R., Jourdyn A. Lawrence, and Brigette A. Davis. “Racism and health: evidence and needed research.” *Annual review of public health* 40 (2019): 105-125.

**Structural racism** - the normalization and legitimization of an array of dynamics – historical, cultural, institutional, and interpersonal – that routinely advantage whites while producing cumulative and chronic adverse outcomes for people of color.

**Prejudice** - an affective feeling towards a person based on their perceived group membership.

**Discrimination** - prejudiced treatment or consideration of, or making a distinction towards, a being based on the group, class, or category to which they are perceived to belong.

**Systemic Racism:** composed of intersecting, overlapping, and codependent racist institutions, policies, practices, ideas, and behaviors that give an unjust amount of resources, rights, and power to white people while denying them to people of color.

**Islamophobia** - the fear, hatred of, or prejudice against the Islamic religion or Muslims generally, especially when seen as a geopolitical force or the source of terrorism.

**Xenophobia** - the fear or hatred of that which is perceived to be foreign or strange. It is an expression of the perceived conflict between an ingroup and an outgroup and may manifest in suspicion by one of the other's activities, a desire to eliminate their presence, and fear of losing national, ethnic, or racial identity.

**Anti-semitism** - hostility to, prejudice, or discrimination against Jews.<sup>[1][2][3]</sup> A person who holds such positions is called an antisemite. Antisemitism is generally considered to be a form of racism. Antisemitism may be manifested in many ways, ranging from expressions of hatred of or discrimination against individual Jews to organized pogroms by mobs, state police, or even military attacks on entire Jewish communities.

**Intersectionality** - a theoretical framework for understanding how aspects of one's social and political identities (e.g., gender, race, class, sexuality, disability, etc.) might combine to create unique modes of discrimination.

**"ISM"** - a system of oppression based on target identity (race, sex, etc)

WHEREAS, Racism, sexism, heterosexism (homophobia), ageism, ableism, classism, xenophobia, religious prejudice, and other forms of oppression have damaged us all. All the -isms are connected; and

WHEREAS, Structural racism is supported by and reinforced in multiple societal systems, including the housing, labor, and credit markets, as well as education, criminal justice, the economy, and health care systems; and

WHEREAS, Sequencing the human genome has revealed that racial groups are not genetically discrete, reliably measured, or scientifically meaningful, and thus "race" is a social construction, not a biological category<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, A number of epidemiological studies have demonstrated the negative impacts of racism on both physical and mental health<sup>4</sup>, with racism acting through a number of pathways to increase stress and allostatic load, which have been associated with chronic disease and

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<sup>3</sup> Smedley, Audrey, and Brian D. Smedley. "Race as biology is fiction, racism as a social problem is real: Anthropological and historical perspectives on the social construction of race." *American Psychologist* 60.1 (2005): 16.

<sup>4</sup> Paradies, Yin, et al. "Racism as a determinant of health: a systematic review and meta-analysis." *PloS one* 10.9 (2015): e0138511.

mortality, diminish participation in healthy behaviors, and result in greater exposure to physical violence; and

WHEREAS, almost all of the 400 years of Black American's experience under slavery and Jim Crow laws has allowed preferential opportunity to some while at the same time subjected people of color to hardship and disadvantage in all areas of life; and

WHEREAS, still now, racism – not race- causes disproportionately high rates of homelessness, incarceration, poor education and health outcomes, and economic hardship for African Americans; and

WHEREAS, racism acts on systemic, institutional, interpersonal level and psychological levels, all of which operate throughout time and across generations; and

WHEREAS, this Council believes that the time is now to declare racism a public health crisis in our community; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization defines “public health” as “the art and science of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organized efforts of society” and those efforts “aim to provide conditions under which people can... be healthy, improve their health and well-being, or prevent the deterioration of their health”; and

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

WHEREAS, the Social Determinants of Health – the social and material factors that influence health outcomes - impact life-long outcomes beginning even before birth; and

WHEREAS, the negative repercussions of historical racism, including but not limited to discriminatory lending practices of the 20th century known as “redlining,” impact current outcomes regarding access to nutritious food, economic security, educational achievement, rates of lead poisoning, wealth accumulation, and infant mortality; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that adverse childhood experiences are disproportionately experienced by black children when compared to white children thus having negative impacts on academic, behavioral, and physical health outcomes of black children; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Health and Human Services defines social determinants of health as “conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks,” and has highlighted access to resources like safe and affordable housing, education, public safety, availability of healthy foods, local emergency/health services, and environments free of life-threatening toxins as major foci for community health promotion<sup>5</sup>; and

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-of-health>

WHEREAS, Principally racism works to compromise public health by hindering equitable access to housing, employment, education, and safety, which are social determinants of health; and

WHEREAS, On any given night, more than 1,000 Berkeley residents do not have shelter (i.e. living outdoors in tents, on sidewalks, or in vehicles) according to the Alameda County 2019 Point-In-Time Count. A growing number of residents are housing insecure and at risk of becoming homeless. A majority of unhoused Berkeley residents are people of color, seniors, and disabled. Many have passed away; and

WHEREAS, The Alameda County Public Health Department has stated their vision for health equity in our county, declaring that “every resident – no matter who you are, where you live, how much money you make, or the color of your skin – should have the opportunity to lead a healthy, fulfilling, and productive life”; and

WHEREAS, The neighboring City of Richmond has established a Health Equity Partnership with the goal of addressing “avoidable inequalities by equalizing the conditions for health for all groups, especially for those who have experienced socioeconomic disadvantage or historical injustices (such as racism)”<sup>6</sup> and adopted a Health in All Policies Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Health in All Policies is a healthcare framework proposed by the World Health Organization, also known as “healthy public policy,” which acknowledges health begins in the places that people live, work, learn, worship, and play, and more so than individual choices, health is influenced by a plethora of societal factors, such as policies related to agriculture, education, the environment, fiscal planning, housing, and transport<sup>7</sup>; and

WHEREAS, The City of Richmond has developed a toolkit for implementation of Health in All Policies and views this ordinance as an “integrated and comprehensive approach to bring health, well-being, and equity considerations into the development and implementation of policies, programs, and services of traditionally non-health related government systems or agencies”<sup>8</sup>

WHEREAS, Other cities in the country have introduced legislation declaring racism a threat to public health, for instance, Pittsburgh, PA,<sup>9</sup> proposed a trio of bills that would declare racism a public health crisis in the City, establish a leadership forum, and invest in a fund to eliminate racial inequalities and barriers; and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee, WI,<sup>10</sup> passed legislation declaring racism a public health crisis and is undergoing a process to advocate for policies that improve health for communities of color and will train city employees to understand how racism impacts residents; and

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/2574/Richmond-Health-Equity-Partnership-RHEP>

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/109146/E89260.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/109146/E89260.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/27173/Tool-Kit-DRAFT-52813-v3?bidId=>

<sup>9</sup> <https://triblive.com/local/pittsburgh-alleggheny/pittsburgh-councilmen-want-racism-to-be-treated-as-a-public-health-crisis/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://ips-dc.org/racism-is-a-public-health-crisis/>



WHEREAS, Kansas City, MI,<sup>11</sup> introduced a resolution likewise declaring racism a public health crisis, tasking the city manager to establish a comprehensive plan to address inequities that leave black men and other people of color vulnerable to early death; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland, OH, passed a resolution also declaring racism to be a public health crisis, creating a working group to promote racial equity in their City that seeks solutions to reshape the discourse and actively engage all citizens in racial justice work; continues to work to build alliances with organizations that are confronting racism and encourage partners to recognize racism as a public health crisis; continues to promote racially equitable economic and workforce development; continues to promote racially equitable hiring and promotion of all employees including City employees; and advocates and draft relevant policies that prioritize the health of people of color and mitigate exposure to adverse childhood experiences and trauma in childhood; and

WHEREAS, Increasing opportunities for good health requires investment in the municipality and community infrastructure by facilitating access to parks, safe walkable streets, grocery stores, quality housing, public transportation, good jobs, strong local business, and financial institutions, as well as clean air and water; and

WHEREAS, The Alameda County Place Matters Initiative<sup>12</sup>, spearheaded by Supervisor Keith Carson, was successful in its attempts to address and analyze social determinants of health, including criminal justice, economics, education, housing, land-use, and transportation; and

WHEREAS, The City of Berkeley's Strategic Plan includes goals to 'Champion and demonstrate social and racial equity 'and 'Be a global leader in... advancing environmental justice'; and

WHEREAS, The City of Berkeley Health Status Report of 2018<sup>13</sup> demonstrated that in Berkeley, African Americans and other People of Color die prematurely and are more likely than White people to experience a wide variety of adverse health conditions throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS, The Health Status Report specifically highlights how African Americans make up a disproportionately high percentage of Berkeley's homeless population (50%), earn 3.4x less than White families, are 2.8x less likely to have a college degree, and have a 9x higher teenage birth rate than White families, and additionally, at every life-stage African Americans have poorer health outcomes, including lower birth weight, cardiovascular disease, heart disease, cancer, asthma, and hypertension; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley's historical legacy of redlining (the process by which mortgage lenders determined the value of neighborhoods and whether to provide loans in those areas according to the racial composition and socioeconomic status of residents) has had a lingering impact of

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.kansascity.com/opinion/editorials/article234471712.html>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3945449/>

<sup>13</sup> [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Health\\_Human\\_Services/Level\\_3\\_-\\_Public\\_Health/health-status-summary-report-2018.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Health_Human_Services/Level_3_-_Public_Health/health-status-summary-report-2018.pdf)

racial/ethnic segregation and the ability of Black families to build intergenerational wealth through home-ownership, particularly in South Berkeley and District 2<sup>14</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Gentrification, the process by which the influx of capital and higher-income, higher educated residents, move into working-class neighborhoods, has strongly impacted the Bay Area and has resulted in displacement (forced movement attributable to changes in housing conditions) in 48% of neighborhoods<sup>15</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Between the years 2000-2015, Berkeley (specifically District 2), has experienced a change in median rent over 50%, resulting in displacement of low-income communities of color<sup>16</sup>; and

WHEREAS, The Center for Disease Control has linked gentrification with negative health outcomes for women, children, the elderly, and racial/ethnic minorities, through processes which trigger stress, and increase exposure to injury, violence and crime, mental health disorders, and social and environmental hazards<sup>17</sup>; and

WHEREAS, The City of Berkeley as an employer has come under scrutiny for the way it has discriminated against Black employees, warranting investigations by an outside consulting firm (Mason Tillman)<sup>18</sup> to assess the response to labor grievances raised by people of color; and

WHEREAS, An investigative study by the Center for Policing Equity also demonstrated discrimination by Berkeley Police in their detainment and treatment of people color, noting that Black people were 6.5x more likely to be stopped by BPD than White people while driving, and 4.5x more likely to be stopped on foot, and additionally Black people were 4x more likely to be searched compared to Whites<sup>19</sup>; and

WHEREAS, In addition to struggling with racism, the City of Berkeley is confronted with issues of Islamophobia, xenophobia, transphobia, and the dehumanization of homeless people; and

WHEREAS, Implicit bias is defined as the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in a subconscious manner, encompassing both favorable and unfavorable assessments that cause us to have feelings and attitudes about other people based on characteristics such as race, ethnicity, age, gender, and appearance<sup>20</sup>; and

WHEREAS, A number of tools, programs, and trainings exist to help individuals and organizations reduce their implicit bias, with strategies involving stereotype replacement, counter-stereotypic imaging, individuation, perspective taking, increasing opportunities for contact with individuals from different groups, and partnership building<sup>21</sup>; and

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<sup>14</sup> <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2018/09/20/redlining-the-history-of-berkeleys-segregated-neighborhoods>

<sup>15</sup> [https://www.urbandisplacement.org/sites/default/files/images/urban\\_displacement\\_project\\_-\\_executive\\_summary.pdf](https://www.urbandisplacement.org/sites/default/files/images/urban_displacement_project_-_executive_summary.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.urbandisplacement.org/rentchangemap>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/healthtopics/gentrification.htm>

<sup>18</sup> [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Level\\_3\\_-\\_General/Mason%20Tillman%20Associates%20Report%20051614.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Level_3_-_General/Mason%20Tillman%20Associates%20Report%20051614.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.berkeleyside.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Berkeley-Report-May-2018.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> <http://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/research/understanding-implicit-bias/>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.ihl.org/communities/blogs/how-to-reduce-implicit-bias>

WHEREAS, The Congressional Black Caucus sent a letter to the Center of Disease Control asking for states to report statistics of COVID-19 morbidity and mortality by race and ethnicity, and data emerged that Black people in Milwaukee and Illinois are dying of coronavirus at disproportionately high rates<sup>22</sup>; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control finds that almost one-third of infections nationwide have affected black-Americans, even though blacks only represent 13% of the U.S. population; nearly one-third of those who passed due to COVID-19 across the country are black; and

WHEREAS, this Council recognizes that racism is a public health crisis that affects all members of our society both locally and nationwide and deserves action from all levels of government and civil society; and

WHEREAS, this Council supports the establishment of a working group to address these issues and to: seek solutions to reshape the discourse and actively engage all citizens in racial justice work; continue to work to build alliances with organizations that are confronting racism and encourage partners to recognize racism as a public health crisis; continue to promote racially equitable economic and workforce development in the city; continue to promote racially equitable hiring and promotion of all employees including City employees; and advocate and draft relevant policies that prioritize the health of people of color and mitigate exposure to adverse childhood experiences and trauma in childhood; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Berkeley declare racism as a Public Health Crisis, a Threat and Safety Issue in the City of Berkeley, and commit to eliminate all socioeconomic barriers to health equity;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Declare the resolution an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health, or safety, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic and it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, A Budget Referral to convene a series of town hall sessions for all community members, City workers, and small business owners to discuss the concerns of people of color and marginalized community members, and develop strategies and programs (especially Mental Health Programs for the unhoused stay housed) for greater inclusivity, understanding, empathy, compassion, and unity. The purpose of these meetings should be to strengthen anti-racist capacity building and commitments within the city. This can be done by discussing the current quantitative and qualitative reality of racial justice and injustice, racism and non-racism in all areas of city life toward developing measures to ensure the achievement racial equity in Berkeley. These town halls, strategies and programs could include: the definition and lived experience of racism in systemic and institutional forms the effects and trauma caused by them, and provide resources to combat implicit bias on all levels. Community partners to consider to facilitate such workshops include Beyond Diversity: Courageous Conversations About Race and Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ).

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<sup>22</sup> [https://cbc.house.gov/uploadedfiles/cbc-cbc\\_health\\_braintrust\\_racial\\_disparities\\_letter\\_to\\_cdc.pdf](https://cbc.house.gov/uploadedfiles/cbc-cbc_health_braintrust_racial_disparities_letter_to_cdc.pdf)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, City Council will establish a working group to promote racial equity as well as the development of programs to address racial equity in this City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to record COVID-19 data by race/ethnicity and to explore greater health disparities that have emerged as a result of this crisis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to hold several fundraisers at town hall sessions for black-owned small businesses, research of state and federal RFPs for the purpose of grants acquisitions for program development in the City of Berkeley that have been affected by Covid-19 and/or recent protests.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to prepare a Health in All Policies Ordinance (see attached City of Richmond Ordinance) for Council review and adoption, critically evaluating the public health impact of all legislative and budgetary proposals, especially upon people of color and marginalized community members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to adopt a mandatory requirement of 16 hours of ongoing annual online and in-person training on implicit bias, cultural sensitivity, and cultural humility for City Employees, commissioners, and community members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Direct the City Manager or his/her designee in partnership with the Berkeley Public Health Division and the Mental Health Division to develop a Strategic Plan for Health Equity, with the inclusion of a diverse group of staff with expertise in this subject matter and begin immediate implementation of recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Submit copies of this resolution to State Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, State Senator Nancy Skinner, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, as well as various organizations such as the Berkeley NAACP, the African American Holistic Resource Center Steering Committee, and Healthy Black Families.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oKg-870R3I&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oKg-870R3I&feature=emb_title)



Racism - Public Health Crisis

1,354 views • May 5, 2017

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**White On Race**  
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Leslie Gregory, founder and director of Right to Health in Portland, Oregon, makes her case to the CDC (Center for Disease Control) for racism being a public health threat.



Cheryl Davila  
Councilmember  
District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR  
June 30, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmembers Cheryl Davila (Author) and Ben Bartlett (Co-Sponsor)

Subject: Declare Racism as a Public Health Crisis, a Threat and Safety Issue in the City of Berkeley.

RECOMMENDATION

Declare Racism as a Public Health Crisis, a Threat and Safety Issue in the City of Berkeley, and commit to eliminate all socioeconomic barriers to health equity. In addition:

1. Declare the resolution an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health, or safety, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic and it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption.
2. Budget Referral to convene a series of town hall sessions for all community members, City workers, and small business owners to discuss the concerns of people of color and marginalized community members, and develop strategies and programs (especially Mental Health Programs for the unhoused stay housed) for greater inclusivity, understanding, empathy, compassion, and unity. The purpose of these meetings should be to strengthen anti-racist capacity building and commitments within the city. This can be done by discussing the current quantitative and qualitative reality of racial justice and injustice, racism and non-racism in all areas of city life toward developing measures to ensure the achievement racial equity in Berkeley. These town halls, strategies and programs could include: the definition and lived experience of racism in systemic and institutional forms the effects and trauma caused by them, and provide resources to combat implicit bias on all levels. Community partners to consider to facilitate such workshops include Beyond Diversity: Courageous Conversations About Race and Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ).
3. City Council will establish a working group to promote racial equity as well as the development of programs to address racial equity in this City.
4. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to record COVID-19 data by race/ethnicity and to explore greater health disparities that have emerged as a result of this crisis.
5. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to hold several fundraisers at town hall sessions for black-owned small businesses, research of state and federal RFPs for the purpose of grants acquisitions for program development in the City of Berkeley that have been affected by Covid-19 and/or recent protests.
6. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to prepare a Health in All Policies Ordinance (see attached City of Richmond Ordinance) for Council review and adoption, critically evaluating the public health impact of all legislative and budgetary proposals, especially upon people of color and marginalized community members.
7. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to adopt a mandatory requirement of 16 hours of ongoing annual online and in-person training on implicit bias, cultural sensitivity, and cultural humility for City Employees, commissioners, and community members; and

8. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee in partnership with the Berkeley Public Health Division and the Mental Health Division to develop a Strategic Plan for Health Equity, with the inclusion of a diverse group of staff with expertise in this subject matter and begin immediate implementation of recommendations.
9. Submit copies of this resolution to State Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, State Senator Nancy Skinner, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, as well as various organizations such as the Berkeley NAACP, the African American Holistic Resource Center Steering Committee, and Healthy Black Families.

## BACKGROUND

There is clear data that proves racism negatively impacts the lives of people of color in the City of Berkeley and throughout the County and Nation.

Almost all 400 years of African American's experience was under enslavement and Jim Crow laws and upheld White Supremacy that provided preferential opportunity to some, while at the same time subjected people of color, especially African Americans to hardship and disadvantages in all areas of life.

Racism – not race - causes disproportionately high rates of homelessness, incarceration, poor education and health outcomes, and economic hardship for African Americans in this country.

Racism acts on systemic, institutional, and interpersonal levels, all of which operate throughout time and across generations.

Racism is an organized social system in which a dominant group categorizes and ranks people into social groups, “races”, and uses its power to devalue, disempower, and differentially allocate valued societal resources and opportunities to groups classified as inferior. Racism can act in multiple domains, including structural/institutional, cultural, and individual-level discrimination, reinforcing ideologies of inferiority and hierarchy in media images, laws, interpersonal interactions, and opportunities. Structural or institutional racism embeds racism into policies and practices in society that provide advantages for racial groups deemed superior, while oppressing, disadvantaging, or neglecting racial groups viewed as inferior. Structural racism results in differential access to housing, employment, education, healthy food, clean air and drinking water, and exposure to violence, thus has a significant impact on public health.

Structural racism has profound public health impacts. Now, in this critical moment of a global pandemic caused by COVID-19, previous health disparities are being exacerbated by the lack of infrastructure and provisions of basic resources afforded to marginalized communities. While coronavirus does not seem to discriminate against whom it infects, it does have differential impacts on people who were already in a compromised position in society, due to socioeconomic factors, access to healthcare and housing, and suffering from a compromised immune system due to the effects of stress, the trauma experience of discrimination and the impacts of living in communities that are disproportionately impacted by environmental injustice.

Reports are emerging, highlighting the disparity in the rates of COVID-19 outcomes for communities of color. Cities like Milwaukee, Washington DC, Detroit, Chicago, and New Orleans have experienced a disproportionate morbidity and mortality for black residents due to Coronavirus. The Congressional Black Caucus has called for all states to track public health data regarding coronavirus by race and ethnicity<sup>1</sup>. To this point, Representative Robin Kelly, Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Healthcare Braintrust, stated: “the reason more Blacks are dying from COVID-19 is a result of a history of structural racism, environmental injustice, income inequality, and the lack of resources in Black communities, which have led to

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<sup>1</sup> <https://cbc.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=2174>

the prominence of health-related risk factors such as diabetes and hypertension.” According to data from the Centers for Disease Control, almost one-third of infections nationwide have affected black-Americans, even though blacks only represent 13% of the U.S. population. Additionally, an analysis done by the Associated Press found that nearly one-third of those who passed due to COVID-19 across the country are black.

### Racism Forms Defined:

- **Racism** - Racism is the belief that groups of humans possess different behavioral traits corresponding to physical appearance, and can be divided based on the superiority of one race over another.<sup>[1][2][3][4]</sup> It may also mean prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against other people because they are of a different race or ethnicity.<sup>[2][3]</sup> Modern variants of racism are often based in social perceptions of biological differences between peoples. These views can take the form of social actions, practices or beliefs, or political systems in which different races are ranked as inherently superior or inferior to each other, based on presumed shared inheritable traits, abilities, or qualities.<sup>[2][3][5]</sup>
- **Environmental racism** - Environmental racism is a concept used to describe environmental injustice that occurs in practice and in policy within a racialized context.<sup>[1]</sup> In a national context, environmental racism criticizes inequalities between urban and exurban areas after white flight. Charges of environmental racism can also prompt usages of civil rights legislation like the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to prosecute environmental crimes in the areas in which racialized people live. Internationally, environmental racism can refer to the effects of the global waste trade, like the negative health impact of the export of electronic waste to China from developed countries.
- **Institutional/systemic racism** - Institutional racism (also known as systemic racism) is a form of racism expressed in the practice of social and political institutions. It is reflected in disparities regarding wealth, income, criminal justice, employment, housing, health care, political power, and education, among other factors. The term "institutional racism" was coined by Stokely Carmichael and Charles V. Hamilton. Carmichael and Hamilton wrote that while individual racism is often identifiable because of its overt nature, institutional racism is less perceptible because of its "less overt, far more subtle" nature. Institutional racism "originates in the operation of established and respected forces in the society, and thus receives far less public condemnation than [individual racism]".<sup>[2]</sup>
- **Interpersonal racism** - Interpersonal racism is a component of individual-level racism and has been defined as “directly perceived discriminatory interactions between individuals whether in their institutional roles or as public and private individuals” (Krieger, 1999, p. 301). Interpersonal racism includes maltreatment that the targeted individual attributes, at least in part, to conscious or unconscious racial/ethnic bias on the part of the perpetrator of the maltreatment.
- **Internalized racism** - Internalized racism is a form of internalized oppression, defined by sociologist Karen D. Pyke as the "internalization of racial oppression by the racially subordinated."<sup>[1]</sup> In her study *The Psychology of Racism*, Robin Nicole Johnson emphasizes that internalized racism involves both "conscious and unconscious acceptance of a racial hierarchy in which whites are consistently ranked above people of color."<sup>[2]</sup> These definitions encompass a wide range of instances, including, but not limited to, belief in negative racial stereotypes, adaptations to white cultural standards, and thinking that supports the status quo (i.e. denying that racism exists).<sup>[3]</sup>
- **Structural racism** - Structural Racism in the U.S. is the normalization and legitimization of an array of dynamics – historical, cultural, institutional, and interpersonal – that routinely advantage whites while producing cumulative and chronic adverse outcomes for people of color. It is a system of hierarchy and inequity, primarily characterized by white supremacy – the preferential treatment, privilege, and power for white people at the expense of Black, Latino, Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, Arab, and other racially oppressed people.



- **Prejudice** - Prejudice<sup>[1]</sup> is an affective feeling towards a person based on their perceived group membership. The word is often used to refer to a preconceived, usually unfavorable, evaluation of another person based on that person's political affiliation, sex, gender, beliefs, values, social class, age, disability, religion, sexuality, race/ethnicity, language, nationality, beauty, occupation, education, criminality, sport team affiliation or other personal characteristics.<sup>[2]</sup>
- **Discrimination** - In human social behavior, discrimination is prejudiced treatment or consideration of, or making a distinction towards, a being based on the group, class, or category to which they are perceived to belong. These include age, caste, criminal record, height, disability, family status, gender identity, gender expression, generation, genetic characteristics, marital status, nationality, color, race and ethnicity, religion, sex and sex characteristics, sexual orientation, social class, species, as well as other categories. Discrimination consists of treatment of an individual or group, based on their actual or perceived membership in a certain group or social category, "in a way that is worse than the way people are usually treated".<sup>[1]</sup> It involves the group's initial reaction or interaction going on to influence the individual's actual behavior towards the group leader or the group, restricting members of one group from opportunities or privileges that are available to another group, leading to the exclusion of the individual or entities based on illogical or irrational decision making.<sup>[2]</sup>
- **Systemic Racism:** Systemic racism today is composed of intersecting, overlapping, and codependent racist institutions, policies, practices, ideas, and behaviors that give an unjust amount of resources, rights, and power to white people while denying them to people of color. Developed by sociologist Joe Feagin, systemic racism is a popular way of explaining, within the social sciences and humanities, the significance of race and racism both historically and in today's world. Feagin describes the concept and the realities attached to it in his well-researched and readable book, *Racist America: Roots, Current Realities, & Future Reparations*. In it, Feagin uses historical evidence and demographic statistics to create a theory that asserts that the United States was founded in racism since the Constitution classified black people as the property of whites. Feagin illustrates that the legal recognition of racialized slavery is a cornerstone of a racist social system in which resources and rights were and are unjustly given to white people and unjustly denied to people of color. (thoughtco.com)
- **Islamophobia** - Islamophobia is the fear, hatred of, or prejudice against the Islamic religion or Muslims generally, especially when seen as a geopolitical force or the source of terrorism.
- **Xenophobia** - Xenophobia is the fear or hatred of that which is perceived to be foreign or strange. It is an expression of the perceived conflict between an ingroup and an outgroup and may manifest in suspicion by one of the other's activities, a desire to eliminate their presence, and fear of losing national, ethnic, or racial identity.
- **Anti-semitism** - Antisemitism is hostility to, prejudice, or discrimination against Jews.<sup>[1][2][3]</sup> A person who holds such positions is called an antisemite. Antisemitism is generally considered to be a form of racism. Antisemitism may be manifested in many ways, ranging from expressions of hatred of or discrimination against individual Jews to organized pogroms by mobs, state police, or even military attacks on entire Jewish communities.
- **Intersectionality** - Intersectionality is a theoretical framework for understanding how aspects of one's social and political identities (e.g., gender, race, class, sexuality, disability, etc.) might combine to create unique modes of discrimination. It aims to broaden the agenda of the first waves of feminism, which largely focused on the experiences of white, middle-class women. The broad agenda means that intersectionality is used to find combinations of injustices that are felt by members of society. For example, a black woman might face discrimination from a company that is not distinctly due to her race (because the company does not discriminate against black men) nor her gender (because the company does not discriminate against white

women), but by a unique combination of the two. Intersectional feminism aims to separate itself from white feminism by acknowledging the fact that all women have different experiences and identities.<sup>[1]</sup> It is a qualitative analytic framework that identifies how interlocking systems of power affect those who are most marginalized in society.<sup>[2]</sup>

- **“ISM”** - a system of oppression based on target identity (race, sex, etc)

Racism, sexism, heterosexism (homophobia), ageism, ableism, classism, xenophobia, religious prejudice, and other forms of oppression have damaged us all. All the -isms are connected.

Beyond this, the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic has unleashed an increased amount of racism in this country. There have been a number of documented instances of harassment and physical violence targeting Asian people since the outbreak of the coronavirus, as well as the use of stigmatizing terms like “Chinese Virus” to denote COVID-19. The President of the United States has continued to spew hate, racism, xenophobia, and Islamophobia since he began campaigning for office. COVID-19 has exacerbated the President’s racism towards our commUNITY members, and throughout the world, as a number of violent attacks have been made towards Asian Americans.

The World Health Organization defines “public health” as “the art and science of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organized efforts of society” and those efforts “aim to provide conditions under which people can... be healthy, improve their health and well-being, or prevent the deterioration of their health.”

The United States Office of Disease Prevention recognizes that discrimination negatively impacts health outcomes.

The negative repercussions of historical racism, including but not limited to, discriminatory lending practices of the 20th century known as “redlining,” impact current outcomes regarding access to nutritious food, economic security, educational achievement, rates of lead poisoning, and infant mortality.

Research indicates that adverse childhood experiences are disproportionately experienced by black children when compared to white children thus having negative impacts on academic, behavioral, and physical health outcomes of black children.

Statistics show a national disparity between black and white infant mortality rates, and the State consistently ranks among the worst states concerning black infant mortality rates.

The rates of chronic diseases, including asthma, diabetes, and hypertension, are significantly higher in predominantly black neighborhoods.

The Department of Health and Human Services defines the social determinants of health as conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age, which affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. Social determinants of health include access to resources like safe and affordable housing, education, public safety, availability of healthy foods, local emergency/health services, and environments free of life-threatening toxins. Beyond genetic predispositions or individual life choices, the World Health Organization notes that the social determinants of health predict a person’s life expectancy. By these means, structural racism threatens public health by hindering equitable access to the social determinants of health.

Utilizing an intersectional framework, it is clear that discrimination based on race can be linked to disadvantages for a number of people with marginalized identities, in particular the poor or unhoused, queer and trans, disabled, Muslim, immigrant, and Indigenous communities.JP

Massar' because higher levels of discrimination are associated with an elevated risk to a broad range of diseases, for instance, contraction of heart disease, cancer, and HIV. And everyday over 200 Black people die prematurely due to health inequities between Whites and Blacks.

Like many cities in the United States, the City of Berkeley has a long history of racism. Studies conducted on Berkeley's employment practices and modes of policing have demonstrated structural racism and discrimination at the core of the City's functions. Waves of racial housing segregation, codified by redlining in the past, and currently operating through gentrification and displacement, is a major factor influencing racial/ethnic disparities in health outcomes. The 2018 Berkeley Health Status Report demonstrated that within the City of Berkeley, African Americans and other People of Color die prematurely and are more likely to experience a wide variety of adverse health conditions throughout their lives. Specifically, Black people make up a disproportionately high percentage of the city's homeless population, are less likely to attain higher education, are more likely to live in poverty, and have poorer health outcomes, morbidity, and mortality from cardiovascular disease, heart disease, cancers, and birth complications.

The Alameda County Department of Public Health has demonstrated racial/ethnic health disparity in our community, noting a 17-year difference in life expectancy between a child born in West Oakland and the Oakland Hills. Supervisor Keith Carson has begun a process of trying to address health inequities through the launch of the Health Matters Initiative.

Additionally, the City of Richmond also views racism as a major threat to public health and has adopted a Health in all Policies Ordinance in order to rectify health inequities. Other cities throughout the United States, like Kansas City, Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, and Cleveland, have also come to view racism as a public health crisis, passing legislation to turn the tide and ensure everyone (regardless of their race or ethnicity) has the opportunity to live healthy, fulfilling lives.

On any given night, more than 1,000 Berkeley residents do not have shelter (i.e. living outdoors in tents, on sidewalks, or in vehicles) according to the Alameda County 2019 Point-In-Time Count. A growing number of residents are housing insecure and at risk of becoming homeless. A majority of unhoused Berkeley residents are people of color, seniors, and disabled. Many have passed away.

The City of Berkeley should follow the example of other cities that have declared racism as a threat to public health. We should adopt a Health in All Policies Ordinance, and take all necessary legislative steps to ensure health equity in our city. Minimally this will involve the curation of a number of town hall sessions to hear the concerns of marginalized community members and with careful collaborations, develop a strategic plan for health equity. Additionally, the City should provide training on ways to reduce implicit bias for City employees and interested members of the community. This will allow us to critically evaluate our prejudices and take the initiative to reduce bias and remove racist barriers to the social determinants of health.

The City must recognize that racism is a public health crisis that affects all members of our society both locally and nationwide and deserves action from all levels of government and civil society.

The time is *now* to declare racism as a public health threat in our community. The time has come to change business as usual. We must confront the systemic racism that has permeated society throughout our lifetime. Because in the words of Ibram X. Kendi, "the only way to undo racism is to consistently identify and describe it - and then to dismantle it."

The City Council should support the establishment of a working group to address these issues and to: seek solutions to reshape the discourse and actively engage all citizens in racial justice work; continue to work to build alliances with organizations that are confronting racism and

encourage partners to recognize racism as a public health crisis; continue to promote racially equitable economic and workforce development; continue to promote racially equitable hiring and promotion of all employees including City employees; and advocate and draft relevant policies that prioritize the health of people of color and mitigate exposure to adverse childhood experiences and trauma in childhood.

California Government Code 54956.5 states: "An emergency, which shall be defined as a work stoppage, crippling activity, or other activity that severely impairs public health, safety, or both, as determined by a majority of the members of the legislative body."

With multiple crises to contend with (COVID-19 pandemic, racism, etc), and all the reasons stated earlier, it is the utmost urgency to declare racism as a nuisance and a crisis to public health and safety in the City of Berkeley, as well as adopt it as an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety.

#### FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

It is estimated \$50,000 for hiring of facilitators and the coordination of 3-5 town hall sessions.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

With a focus on health equity and the adoption of a 'Health in All Policies' ordinance, a number of environmental benefits should result in the City, including reduced air pollution, cleaner waterways, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions by being proactive about ending environmental racism.

#### CONTACT PERSON

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[cdavila@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:cdavila@cityofberkeley.info)

#### ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution
2. Racism - Public Health Crisis, published on May 5, 2017  
Leslie Gregory, Founder and Director of Right to Health in Portland, Oregon  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oKg-870R3I&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oKg-870R3I&feature=emb_title)
3. City of Richmond Health in All Policies Ordinance:  
<http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/6999>

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1. Williams, David R., Jourdyn A. Lawrence, and Brigette A. Davis. "Racism and health: evidence and needed research." *Annual review of public health* 40 (2019): 105-125.
2. Smedley, Audrey, and Brian D. Smedley. "Race as biology is fiction, racism as a social problem is real: Anthropological and historical perspectives on the social construction of race." *American Psychologist* 60.1 (2005): 16.
3. Paradies, Yin, et al. "Racism as a determinant of health: a systematic review and meta-analysis." *PloS one* 10.9 (2015): e0138511.
4. <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-of-health>
5. <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/2574/Richmond-Health-Equity-Partnership-RHEP>
6. [http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/109146/E89260.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/109146/E89260.pdf)
7. <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/27173/Tool-Kit-DRAFT-52813-v3?bidId=>
8. <https://triblive.com/local/pittsburgh-alleggheny/pittsburgh-councilmen-want-racism-to-be-treated-as-a-public-health-crisis/>
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10. <https://www.kansascity.com/opinion/editorials/article234471712.html>
11. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3945449/>

12. [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Health\\_Human\\_Services/Level\\_3\\_-\\_Public\\_Health/health-status-summary-report-2018.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Health_Human_Services/Level_3_-_Public_Health/health-status-summary-report-2018.pdf)
13. <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2018/09/20/redlining-the-history-of-berkeleys-segregated-neighborhoods>
14. [https://www.urbandisplacement.org/sites/default/files/images/urban\\_displacement\\_project\\_-\\_executive\\_summary.pdf](https://www.urbandisplacement.org/sites/default/files/images/urban_displacement_project_-_executive_summary.pdf)
15. <https://www.urbandisplacement.org/rentchangemap>
16. <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/healthtopics/gentrification.htm>
17. [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Level\\_3\\_-\\_General/Mason%20Tillman%20Associates%20Report%20051614.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Level_3_-_General/Mason%20Tillman%20Associates%20Report%20051614.pdf)
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19. <http://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/research/understanding-implicit-bias/>
20. <http://www.ihl.org/communities/blogs/how-to-reduce-implicit-bias>
21. [https://cbc.house.gov/uploadedfiles/cbc-cbc\\_health\\_braintrust\\_racial\\_disparities\\_letter\\_to\\_cdc.pdf](https://cbc.house.gov/uploadedfiles/cbc-cbc_health_braintrust_racial_disparities_letter_to_cdc.pdf)
22. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/2020/04/coronavirus-disproportionately-impacts-african-americans/#close>
23. <https://societyforhealthpsychology.org/resources/research-advocacy/diversity-racism/interpersonal/>
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25. <https://cbc.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=2174>

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF BERKELEY TO DECLARE RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS, A THREAT AND SAFETY ISSUE IN THE CITY OF BERKELEY

WHEREAS, Racism is defined as “an organized social system in which the dominant racial group categorizes and ranks people into social groups called “races” and uses its power to devalue, disempower, and differentially allocate valued societal resources and opportunities to groups defined as inferior”<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Racism can take on many principal domains, including structural/institutional, cultural, and individual-level discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Racism is the belief that groups of humans possess different behavioral traits corresponding to physical appearance, and can be divided based on the superiority of one race over another. Racism Forms are defined as:

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<sup>2</sup> Williams, David R., Jourdyn A. Lawrence, and Brigette A. Davis. "Racism and health: evidence and needed research." *Annual review of public health* 40 (2019): 105-125.

**Environmental racism** - a concept used to describe environmental injustice that occurs in practice and in policy within a racialized context.<sup>[1]</sup>

**Institutional/systemic racism** - Institutional racism (also known as systemic racism) is a form of racism expressed in the practice of social and political institutions.

**Interpersonal racism** - a component of individual-level racism and has been defined as "directly perceived discriminatory interactions between individuals whether in their institutional roles or as public and private individuals" (Krieger, 1999, p. 301).

**Internalized racism** - a form of internalized oppression, defined by sociologist Karen D. Pyke as the "internalization of racial oppression by the racially subordinated."

**Structural racism** - the normalization and legitimization of an array of dynamics – historical, cultural, institutional, and interpersonal – that routinely advantage whites while producing cumulative and chronic adverse outcomes for people of color.

**Prejudice** - an affective feeling towards a person based on their perceived group membership.

**Discrimination** - prejudiced treatment or consideration of, or making a distinction towards, a being based on the group, class, or category to which they are perceived to belong.

**Systemic Racism:** composed of intersecting, overlapping, and codependent racist institutions, policies, practices, ideas, and behaviors that give an unjust amount of resources, rights, and power to white people while denying them to people of color.

**Islamophobia** - the fear, hatred of, or prejudice against the Islamic religion or Muslims generally, especially when seen as a geopolitical force or the source of terrorism.

**Xenophobia** - the fear or hatred of that which is perceived to be foreign or strange. It is an expression of the perceived conflict between an ingroup and an outgroup and may manifest in suspicion by one of the other's activities, a desire to eliminate their presence, and fear of losing national, ethnic, or racial identity.

**Anti-semitism** - hostility to, prejudice, or discrimination against Jews.<sup>[1][2][3]</sup> A person who holds such positions is called an antisemite. Antisemitism is generally considered to be a form of racism. Antisemitism may be manifested in many ways, ranging from expressions of hatred of or discrimination against individual Jews to organized pogroms by mobs, state police, or even military attacks on entire Jewish communities.

**Intersectionality** - a theoretical framework for understanding how aspects of one's social and political identities (e.g., gender, race, class, sexuality, disability, etc.) might combine to create unique modes of discrimination.

**"ISM"** - a system of oppression based on target identity (race, sex, etc)

WHEREAS, Racism, sexism, heterosexism (homophobia), ageism, ableism, classism, xenophobia, religious prejudice, and other forms of oppression have damaged us all. All the -isms are connected; and

WHEREAS, Structural racism is supported by and reinforced in multiple societal systems, including the housing, labor, and credit markets, as well as education, criminal justice, the economy, and health care systems; and

WHEREAS, Sequencing the human genome has revealed that racial groups are not genetically discrete, reliably measured, or scientifically meaningful, and thus "race" is a social construction, not a biological category<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, A number of epidemiological studies have demonstrated the negative impacts of racism on both physical and mental health<sup>4</sup>, with racism acting through a number of pathways to

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<sup>3</sup> Smedley, Audrey, and Brian D. Smedley. "Race as biology is fiction, racism as a social problem is real: Anthropological and historical perspectives on the social construction of race." *American Psychologist* 60.1 (2005): 16.

<sup>4</sup> Paradies, Yin, et al. "Racism as a determinant of health: a systematic review and meta-analysis." *PloS one* 10.9 (2015): e0138511.

increase stress and allostatic load, which have been associated with chronic disease and mortality, diminish participation in healthy behaviors, and result in greater exposure to physical violence; and

WHEREAS, almost all of the 400 years of Black American's experience under slavery and Jim Crow laws has allowed preferential opportunity to some while at the same time subjected people of color to hardship and disadvantage in all areas of life; and

WHEREAS, still now, racism – not race- causes disproportionately high rates of homelessness, incarceration, poor education and health outcomes, and economic hardship for African Americans; and

WHEREAS, racism acts on systemic, institutional, interpersonal level and psychological levels, all of which operate throughout time and across generations; and

WHEREAS, this Council believes that the time is now to declare racism a public health crisis in our community; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization defines “public health” as “the art and science of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organized efforts of society” and those efforts “aim to provide conditions under which people can... be healthy, improve their health and well-being, or prevent the deterioration of their health”; and

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

WHEREAS, the Social Determinants of Health – the social and material factors that influence health outcomes - impact life-long outcomes beginning even before birth; and

WHEREAS, the negative repercussions of historical racism, including but not limited to discriminatory lending practices of the 20th century known as “redlining,” impact current outcomes regarding access to nutritious food, economic security, educational achievement, rates of lead poisoning, wealth accumulation, and infant mortality; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that adverse childhood experiences are disproportionately experienced by black children when compared to white children thus having negative impacts on academic, behavioral, and physical health outcomes of black children; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Health and Human Services defines social determinants of health as “conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks,” and has highlighted access to resources like safe and affordable housing, education, public safety, availability of healthy foods, local emergency/health services, and environments free of life-threatening toxins as major foci for community health promotion<sup>5</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Principally racism works to compromise public health by hindering equitable access to housing, employment, education, and safety, which are social determinants of health; and

WHEREAS, On any given night, more than 1,000 Berkeley residents do not have shelter (i.e. living outdoors in tents, on sidewalks, or in vehicles) according to the Alameda County 2019 Point-In-Time Count. A growing number of residents are housing insecure and at risk of

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-of-health>

becoming homeless. A majority of unhoused Berkeley residents are people of color, seniors, and disabled. Many have passed away; and

WHEREAS, The Alameda County Public Health Department has stated their vision for health equity in our county, declaring that “every resident – no matter who you are, where you live, how much money you make, or the color of your skin – should have the opportunity to lead a healthy, fulfilling, and productive life”; and

WHEREAS, The neighboring City of Richmond has established a Health Equity Partnership with the goal of addressing “avoidable inequalities by equalizing the conditions for health for all groups, especially for those who have experienced socioeconomic disadvantage or historical injustices (such as racism)”<sup>6</sup> and adopted a Health in All Policies Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Health in All Policies is a healthcare framework proposed by the World Health Organization, also known as “healthy public policy,” which acknowledges health begins in the places that people live, work, learn, worship, and play, and more so than individual choices, health is influenced by a plethora of societal factors, such as policies related to agriculture, education, the environment, fiscal planning, housing, and transport<sup>7</sup>; and

WHEREAS, The City of Richmond has developed a toolkit for implementation of Health in All Policies and views this ordinance as an “integrated and comprehensive approach to bring health, well-being, and equity considerations into the development and implementation of policies, programs, and services of traditionally non-health related government systems or agencies”<sup>8</sup>

WHEREAS, Other cities in the country have introduced legislation declaring racism a threat to public health, for instance, Pittsburgh, PA,<sup>9</sup> proposed a trio of bills that would declare racism a public health crisis in the City, establish a leadership forum, and invest in a fund to eliminate racial inequalities and barriers; and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee, WI,<sup>10</sup> passed legislation declaring racism a public health crisis and is undergoing a process to advocate for policies that improve health for communities of color and will train city employees to understand how racism impacts residents; and

WHEREAS, Kansas City, MI,<sup>11</sup> introduced a resolution likewise declaring racism a public health crisis, tasking the city manager to establish a comprehensive plan to address inequities that leave black men and other people of color vulnerable to early death; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland, OH, passed a resolution also declaring racism to be a public health crisis, creating a working group to promote racial equity in their City that seeks solutions to reshape the discourse and actively engage all citizens in racial justice work; continues to work to build alliances with organizations that are confronting racism and encourage partners to recognize racism as a public health crisis; continues to promote racially equitable economic and workforce development; continues to promote racially equitable hiring and promotion of all employees including City employees; and advocates and draft relevant policies that prioritize the health of people of color and mitigate exposure to adverse childhood experiences and trauma in childhood; and

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/2574/Richmond-Health-Equity-Partnership-RHEP>

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/109146/E89260.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/109146/E89260.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/27173/Tool-Kit-DRAFT-52813-v3?bidId=>

<sup>9</sup> <https://triblive.com/local/pittsburgh-allegheeny/pittsburgh-councilmen-want-racism-to-be-treated-as-a-public-health-crisis/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://ips-dc.org/racism-is-a-public-health-crisis/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.kansascity.com/opinion/editorials/article234471712.html>



WHEREAS, Increasing opportunities for good health requires investment in the municipality and community infrastructure by facilitating access to parks, safe walkable streets, grocery stores, quality housing, public transportation, good jobs, strong local business, and financial institutions, as well as clean air and water; and

WHEREAS, The Alameda County Place Matters Initiative<sup>12</sup>, spearheaded by Supervisor Keith Carson, was successful in its attempts to address and analyze social determinants of health, including criminal justice, economics, education, housing, land-use, and transportation; and

WHEREAS, The City of Berkeley's Strategic Plan includes goals to 'Champion and demonstrate social and racial equity' and 'Be a global leader in... advancing environmental justice'; and

WHEREAS, The City of Berkeley Health Status Report of 2018<sup>13</sup> demonstrated that in Berkeley, African Americans and other People of Color die prematurely and are more likely than White people to experience a wide variety of adverse health conditions throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS, The Health Status Report specifically highlights how African Americans make up a disproportionately high percentage of Berkeley's homeless population (50%), earn 3.4x less than White families, are 2.8x less likely to have a college degree, and have a 9x higher teenage birth rate than White families, and additionally, at every life-stage African Americans have poorer health outcomes, including lower birth weight, cardiovascular disease, heart disease, cancer, asthma, and hypertension; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley's historical legacy of redlining (the process by which mortgage lenders determined the value of neighborhoods and whether to provide loans in those areas according to the racial composition and socioeconomic status of residents) has had a lingering impact of racial/ethnic segregation and the ability of Black families to build intergenerational wealth through home-ownership, particularly in South Berkeley and District 2<sup>14</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Gentrification, the process by which the influx of capital and higher-income, higher educated residents, move into working-class neighborhoods, has strongly impacted the Bay Area and has resulted in displacement (forced movement attributable to changes in housing conditions) in 48% of neighborhoods<sup>15</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Between the years 2000-2015, Berkeley (specifically District 2), has experienced a change in median rent over 50%, resulting in displacement of low-income communities of color<sup>16</sup>; and

WHEREAS, The Center for Disease Control has linked gentrification with negative health outcomes for women, children, the elderly, and racial/ethnic minorities, through processes which trigger stress, and increase exposure to injury, violence and crime, mental health disorders, and social and environmental hazards<sup>17</sup>; and

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3945449/>

<sup>13</sup> [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Health\\_Human\\_Services/Level\\_3\\_-\\_Public\\_Health/health-status-summary-report-2018.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Health_Human_Services/Level_3_-_Public_Health/health-status-summary-report-2018.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2018/09/20/redlining-the-history-of-berkeley-segregated-neighborhoods>

<sup>15</sup> [https://www.urbandisplacement.org/sites/default/files/images/urban\\_displacement\\_project\\_-\\_executive\\_summary.pdf](https://www.urbandisplacement.org/sites/default/files/images/urban_displacement_project_-_executive_summary.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.urbandisplacement.org/rentchangemap>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/healthtopics/gentrification.htm>

WHEREAS, The City of Berkeley as an employer has come under scrutiny for the way it has discriminated against Black employees, warranting investigations by an outside consulting firm (Mason Tillman)<sup>18</sup> to assess the response to labor grievances raised by people of color; and

WHEREAS, An investigative study by the Center for Policing Equity also demonstrated discrimination by Berkeley Police in their detainment and treatment of people color, noting that Black people were 6.5x more likely to be stopped by BPD than White people while driving, and 4.5x more likely to be stopped on foot, and additionally Black people were 4x more likely to be searched compared to Whites<sup>19</sup>; and

WHEREAS, In addition to struggling with racism, the City of Berkeley is confronted with issues of Islamophobia, xenophobia, transphobia, and the dehumanization of homeless people; and

WHEREAS, Implicit bias is defined as the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in a subconscious manner, encompassing both favorable and unfavorable assessments that cause us to have feelings and attitudes about other people based on characteristics such as race, ethnicity, age, gender, and appearance<sup>20</sup>; and

WHEREAS, A number of tools, programs, and trainings exist to help individuals and organizations reduce their implicit bias, with strategies involving stereotype replacement, counter-stereotypic imaging, individuation, perspective taking, increasing opportunities for contact with individuals from different groups, and partnership building<sup>21</sup>; and

WHEREAS, The Congressional Black Caucus sent a letter to the Center of Disease Control asking for states to report statistics of COVID-19 morbidity and mortality by race and ethnicity, and data emerged that Black people in Milwaukee and Illinois are dying of coronavirus at disproportionately high rates<sup>22</sup>; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control finds that almost one-third of infections nationwide have affected black-Americans, even though blacks only represent 13% of the U.S. population; nearly one-third of those who passed due to COVID-19 across the country are black; and

WHEREAS, this Council recognizes that racism is a public health crisis that affects all members of our society both locally and nationwide and deserves action from all levels of government and civil society; and

WHEREAS, this Council supports the establishment of a working group to address these issues and to: seek solutions to reshape the discourse and actively engage all citizens in racial justice work; continue to work to build alliances with organizations that are confronting racism and encourage partners to recognize racism as a public health crisis; continue to promote racially equitable economic and workforce development in the city; continue to promote racially equitable hiring and promotion of all employees including City employees; and advocate and draft relevant policies that prioritize the health of people of color and mitigate exposure to adverse childhood experiences and trauma in childhood; and

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<sup>18</sup> [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Level\\_3\\_-\\_General/Mason%20Tillman%20Associates%20Report%20051614.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Level_3_-_General/Mason%20Tillman%20Associates%20Report%20051614.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.berkeleyside.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Berkeley-Report-May-2018.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> <http://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/research/understanding-implicit-bias/>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.ihl.org/communities/blogs/how-to-reduce-implicit-bias>

<sup>22</sup> [https://cbc.house.gov/uploadedfiles/cbc-cbc\\_health\\_braintrust\\_racial\\_disparities\\_letter\\_to\\_cdc.pdf](https://cbc.house.gov/uploadedfiles/cbc-cbc_health_braintrust_racial_disparities_letter_to_cdc.pdf)

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Berkeley declare racism as a Public Health Crisis, a Threat and Safety Issue in the City of Berkeley, and commit to eliminate all socioeconomic barriers to health equity;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Declare the resolution an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health, or safety, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic and it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, A Budget Referral to convene a series of town hall sessions for all community members, City workers, and small business owners to discuss the concerns of people of color and marginalized community members, and develop strategies and programs (especially Mental Health Programs for the unhoused stay housed) for greater inclusivity, understanding, empathy, compassion, and unity. The purpose of these meetings should be to strengthen anti-racist capacity building and commitments within the city. This can be done by discussing the current quantitative and qualitative reality of racial justice and injustice, racism and non-racism in all areas of city life toward developing measures to ensure the achievement racial equity in Berkeley. These town halls, strategies and programs could include: the definition and lived experience of racism in systemic and institutional forms the effects and trauma caused by them, and provide resources to combat implicit bias on all levels. Community partners to consider to facilitate such workshops include Beyond Diversity: Courageous Conversations About Race and Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, City Council will establish a working group to promote racial equity as well as the development of programs to address racial equity in this City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to record COVID-19 data by race/ethnicity and to explore greater health disparities that have emerged as a result of this crisis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to hold several fundraisers at town hall sessions for black-owned small businesses, research of state and federal RFPs for the purpose of grants acquisitions for program development in the City of Berkeley that have been affected by Covid-19 and/or recent protests.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to prepare a Health in All Policies Ordinance (see attached [City of Richmond Ordinance](#)) for Council review and adoption, critically evaluating the public health impact of all legislative and budgetary proposals, especially upon people of color and marginalized community members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to adopt a mandatory requirement of 16 hours of ongoing annual online and in-person training on implicit bias, cultural sensitivity, and cultural humility for City Employees, commissioners, and community members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Direct the City Manager or his/her designee in partnership with the Berkeley Public Health Division and the Mental Health Division to develop a Strategic Plan for Health Equity, with the inclusion of a diverse group of staff with expertise in this subject matter and begin immediate implementation of recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Submit copies of this resolution to State Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, State Senator Nancy Skinner, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, as well as various organizations such as the Berkeley NAACP, the African American Holistic Resource Center Steering Committee, and Healthy Black Families.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oKg-870R3I&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oKg-870R3I&feature=emb_title)



Leslie Gregory  
Founder/Director - RIGHT TO HEALTH

Racism - Public Health Crisis

1,354 views · May 5, 2017

👍 14    👎 0    ➦ SHARE    ≡+ SAVE    ...



**White On Race**  
14 subscribers

**SUBSCRIBE**

Leslie Gregory, founder and director of Right to Health in Portland, Oregon, makes her case to the CDC (Center for Disease Control) for racism being a public health threat.

**ORDINANCE NO. 27-15 N.S.**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND AMENDING ARTICLE IX OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND. THIS ORDINANCE AMENDS THE HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES ORDINANCE.

---

The Council of the City of Richmond do ordain as follows:

Section I. Amendment of Chapter 9.15. Chapter 9.15 of the Municipal Code of the City of Richmond is hereby amended to read as follows:

**CHAPTER 9.15**

**HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES**

**Sections:**

**9.15.010 Findings**

**9.15.020 Definitions**

**9.15.030 Health in All Policies Implementation**

**9.15.010 Findings.**

- (a) Health starts where we live, learn, work and play, and everyday decisions within the City of Richmond can promote greater health and equity.
- (b) All Richmond residents should have the opportunity to make the choices that allow them to live a long, healthy life, regardless of their job, neighborhood of residence, level of education, immigration status, sexual orientation, ethnic background or religion.
- (c) Good health enhances quality of life, improves workforce productivity, increases the capacity for learning, strengthens families and communities, supports environmental sustainability and helps reduce overall economic and social insecurity.
- (d) In the City of Richmond, those at greatest risk for poor health outcomes are low-income residents of color, especially African Americans residents, who have a shorter life expectancy than other county residents.
- (e) In comparison to other cities in Contra Costa County, Richmond residents experience the highest proportion of deaths from diabetes, a higher than average rate of children requiring hospitalization due to asthma, and the second highest number of hospitalizations for mental health disorders and substance abuse.
- (f) Richmond residents are also disproportionately affected by heart disease, cancer and stroke.
- (g) Recognizing the presence of critical health disparities in the community and the opportunity to intervene on health outcomes, the City has developed and defined public health broadly in the Community Health and Wellness Element of the General Plan 2030.
- (h) Health in All Policies is an approach to operationalizing the vision of health laid out in the Richmond General Plan 2030 and to creating institutional change by prioritizing health and health equity in all policies.
- (i) Health in All Policies is fundamentally about creating systems-level change both within City departments and in the community.
- (j) In developing strategies to address health disparities, it is important to recognize that at its heart, promoting equity is not just about providing more services.

- (k) It is also about how services are developed, prioritized and delivered.
- (l) The Health in All Policies strategy guides the City of Richmond on how to address the social determinants of health, or the root causes of current health disparities in the development, prioritization and delivery of these services and policies.
- (m) The City of Richmond's Health in All Policies is designed to be consistent with the State of California's Health in All Policies Plan and the California Health and Safety Code Section 131019.5.

**9.15.020 Definitions.**

The definitions in this section apply throughout this ordinance unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

- (a) "Health in All Policies" (HiAP) is both a process and a goal.
  - (1) The goal of HiAP is to address inequities at the systems, policy and structural levels to eliminate the resulting health disparities.
  - (2) At the root of the HiAP is an approach to improving health of all people by incorporating health considerations into collaborative decision-making across sectors, agencies, and departments. HiAP brings city departments and community groups together to identify ways in which all policies can take health outcomes into consideration. The HiAP process places health at the center of all work, and through discussion and compromise, gains stakeholder buy-in from all agencies, groups, and departments.
  - (3) Health in All Policies works to create a new policy and organizing framework within city government and beyond in the community. It emphasizes the consequences of public policies, plans, and programs on health determinants, and aims to improve health outcomes at all levels of government within the city and those agencies responsible for serving Richmond residents.
  - (4) Robust stakeholder engagement is essential for ensuring that Health in All Policies is responsive to community needs. Community-based knowledge provides important information about opportunities and barriers for health and insight into the ways in which policies may impede or promote health.
- (b) "Health" is not simply the absence of disease, but the state of complete physical, mental, cultural and social well-being. HiAP is based on the premise that good health is fundamental for a strong economy and vibrant society, and that health outcomes are largely dependent on the social determinants of health, which in turn are shaped by decisions made within the health sector and internally and externally outside of the health sector.
- (c) "Health equity" refers to efforts to ensure that all people have full and equal access to opportunities that enable them to lead healthy lives, while respecting differences that include but are not limited to culture, language, race, gender, sexuality, economic status, citizenship, ability, age and religion.
  - (1) Health equity entails focused societal efforts to address avoidable inequalities by equalizing the conditions for health for all groups, especially for those who have experienced socioeconomic disadvantage or historical injustices.
  - (2) These communities include, but are not limited to women, people of color, low-income individuals and families, individuals who have been incarcerated, individuals with disabilities, individuals with mental health

conditions, children, youth and young adults, seniors, immigrants and refugees, individuals who are limited-English proficient (LEP), and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex and asexual (LGBTQIA) communities, or combinations of these populations.

- (d) “Health disparities” are differences of presence of disease, health outcomes, or access to care among distinct segments of the population, including differences that occur by race or ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, education or income, immigration status, age, disability or functional impairment, or geographic location, or the combination of any of these factors.
- (e) “Health inequities” are health disparities resulting from factors that are systemic and avoidable and, therefore, considered unjust or unfair.
- (f) Determinants of health equity include the social, economic, geographic, political, institutional and physical environmental conditions that lead to the creation of a fair and just society.
- (g) “Social determinants of health” refer to everything outside of direct health care services, such as the conditions in the environment in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. The social determinants of health include but are not limited to:
  - (1) The availability of resources to meet our daily needs (e.g. safe housing, access to healthy and affordable food).
  - (2) Access to educational, economic, and job opportunities that lead to sustainable employment.
  - (3) Neighborhood safety and communities free of crime, violence, and social disorder (e.g. presence of trash and other forms of blight); and
  - (4) Accessible built environments that promote health and safety, including improved pedestrian, bicycle, and automobile safety, parks and green space, and healthy school siting.
  - (5) Social norms and attitudes (e.g. discrimination and racism), socioeconomic conditions (e.g. concentrated poverty and the chronically stressful conditions that accompany it).
- (h) “Toxic stress” refers to prolonged and repeated exposure to multiple negative factors, especially in early childhood. Contributing factors include but are not limited to racial profiling, poor air quality, residential segregation and economic insecurity. Toxic stress has known physical and mental health impacts and contributes to a host of chronic conditions such as heart disease and diabetes. Toxic stress has also been shown to have negative intergenerational health effects. Toxic stress does not refer to individual stressful events, but rather the unrelieved accumulation of these events over one’s life.

**9.15.030 Health in All Policies Implementation.**

To effectively implement and maintain Health in All Policies the City shall:

- (a) Apply health equity and social justice foundational practices to City actions and endeavor to integrate these practices into the city’s strategic, operational and business plans; management and reporting systems for accountability and performance; and budgets in order to eliminate inequities and create opportunities for all people and neighborhoods;

- (b) Use the Health in All Policies Strategy Document as the guiding plan for implementing Health in All Policies in the City. The strategy document will outline the vision, mission and goals, and identify a timeline as well as the process to reach these goals. The strategy document will be a living plan that is designed to grow over time as progress is made and the needs of the community and City change;
- (c) Establish the Interdepartmental Health in All Policies Team. The Interdepartmental team will be comprised of representatives from each department within the City and are responsible for:
  - (1) Selecting health and health equity indicators for each department to track as a way of prioritizing goals and measuring progress aligned with existing City guiding documents (General Plan, 5 Year Strategic Business Plan, etc.);
  - (2) Attending regularly scheduled Interdepartmental Team meetings chaired by the City Manager's office;
  - (3) Reporting to the Interdepartmental Team on progress and challenges from his or her respective department;
  - (4) Working with his or her respective department to integrate and track health equity indicators for his or her department;
  - (5) Committing to attending ongoing health equity training, such as health equity impact assessments; and
  - (6) Assisting with the writing of the Tri-Annual HiAP Report and provide a report with the adoption of the City budget.
- (d) Design and publish a tri-annual report on the status of health and health equity in the City of Richmond and progress of HiAP implementation for the City Council, city staff, community organizations, residents, businesses, and other governmental agencies within the City.
  - (1) Implementation will be measured based on health and health equity indicators selected by the Interdepartmental HiAP Team.
  - (2) In addition to reporting on indicators, the Tri-Annual Report will include any updates to the HiAP strategy document.
- (e) Develop and implement an ongoing community engagement plan to work directly with stakeholders throughout the process of the HiAP Strategy development and implementation to ensure that perspectives are consistently understood, considered, and reflected in decisions. The goal is to partner with stakeholders in each aspect of decision making in order to develop and implement collaborative solutions.

Section II. Severability.

If any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such a decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed each section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance irrespective of the unconstitutionality or invalidity of any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase.



Section III. Effective Date.

This Ordinance becomes effective 30 days after its final passage and adoption.

First read at a regular meeting of the Council of the City of Richmond held on November 24, 2015, and finally passed and adopted at a regular meeting thereof held on December 15, 2015, by the following vote:

- AYES: Councilmembers Bates, Beckles, Martinez, McLaughlin, Pimplé, Vice Mayor Myrick, and Mayor Butt.
- NOES: None.
- ABSTENTIONS: None.
- ABSENT: None.

**PAMELA CHRISTIAN**  
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND  
(SEAL)

Approved:

**TOM BUTT**  
Mayor

Approved as to form:

**BRUCE GOODMILLER**  
City Attorney

State of California            }  
County of Contra Costa        }        : ss.  
City of Richmond                }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of **Ordinance No. 27-15 N.S.**, passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on December 15, 2015.

  
Pamela Christian, City Clerk of the City of Richmond





04a

ACTION CALENDAR

April 14, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Homeless Commission  
Submitted by: Carole Marasovic, Chairperson, Homeless Commission  
Subject: A People's First Sanctuary Encampment

RECOMMENDATION

The City Council to adopt the *People's First Sanctuary Encampment Model* incorporating all text in this report, urging best practices for Sanctuary Homeless Encampments with an oversight agency to be named by members of the encampment community and refer to the City Manager to fund liability insurance for the agency chosen by the encampment community.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Allocations from Measure P funding regarding emergency services, tents, heating equipment, waste, water purification, food distribution and waste management, sanitation, healthcare, hygiene, and accessibility services.

Sanctioned encampments will provide accessible and accountable avenues for public funding. Supportive services and emergency run visits may become unburdened through harm-reduction models. Rehousing services may become unburdened through partnerships between small-sites, small-property owners, land trusts, cooperatives and resident homeowners.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

*The Peoples First Sanctuary* is a Strategic Plan Priority Project, advancing our goal to create a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared city as well as champion and demonstrate social and racial equity.

BACKGROUND

On January 8, 2020, the Homeless Commission votes as follows:

**Action:** M/S/C Marasovic/ to defer the People's Sanctuary Encampment recommendation for discussion to next month's meeting and direct the Council encampment chart referral back to the encampment subcommittee to be returned to the full Commission at next month's meeting.

**No Vote:** motion died for lack of a second.

**Action:** M/S/C Hill/ Mulligan to approve the People's First Sanctuary Recommendation with the following amendments to the recommendation section:

(i) to include that an oversight agency be named by members of the encampment community, and (ii) refer to the City Manager to fund liability insurance for the agency chosen by the encampment community.

**Vote:** Ayes: Hill, Kealoha-Blake, Mulligan, Behm-Steinberg  
Noes: Andrew. *Abstain:* Marasovic. *Absent:* Hirpara.

Marasovic abstention due to i) Council directive to respond to encampment chart referral, ii) believes in the spirit of self-governance, and iii) the recommendation is not a realistic plan.

According to the 1,000 Person Plan to Address Homelessness, on any given night in Berkeley, there are nearly 1,000 people experiencing homelessness. The City of Berkeley has implemented a number of programs to respond to this crisis, but data from the homeless point-in-time count indicate that, for the past several years, homelessness has nonetheless steadily increased. To understand the resources and interventions required to end homelessness in Berkeley--both by housing the currently unhoused population and by preventing inflow of future homelessness--the City Council asked staff to create a 1000 Person Plan on April 4, 2017.

While all homeless people lack stable housing, not everyone needs the same level of support to obtain housing. To end homelessness in Berkeley, the city needs targeted investments in a variety of interventions, ensuring every person who experiences homelessness in Berkeley receives an appropriate and timely resolution according to their level of need (i.e., a homeless population of size "functional zero"). HHCS staff analyzed ten years of administrative homelessness data to understand the personal characteristics of people experiencing homelessness in Berkeley, how they are interacting with homeless services in Berkeley, and the factors most predictive of exiting homelessness without eventually returning back to the system.

From these analyses, HHCS staff estimate that over the course of a year, nearly 2000 people experience homelessness in Berkeley. This population has been growing because the population is increasingly harder to serve (longer histories of homelessness and more disabilities) and because housing is too expensive for them to afford on their own.

The types and sizes of all interventions to help Berkeley reach "functional zero" by 2028 are described in this report. To end homelessness for 1000 people in Berkeley, the original referral directive from City Council, the City will need up-front investments in

targeted homelessness prevention, light-touch housing problem-solving, rapid rehousing, and permanent subsidies.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental opportunities associated with the content of this report.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The following principles, developed and proposed by unhoused community members have guided the Peoples First sanctuary Encampment Model's goals to secure the safety of all residents, community members and responsible parties:

That a sanctuary encampment be a peoples first driven model in which the city shall provide capacity-building training for residents of the encampment but shall not interfere with the internal makeup or democratic decision making of encampment members. Collective punishment, regulations, and raids must not occur within a sanctuary encampment. Local authorities may not force safe havens to accept residents without the collective consent of its existing membership.

No protected person's sovereignty shall be interfered with or may be punished for an offense they have not personally committed. Freedom from surveillance, freedom from confiscation of property, and Privacy rights must be established by the City of Berkeley. Mental Health care and First Responders should be available for consultation. Sanctioned encampment councils should be made up of residents of the sanctioned encampment. Unsheltered people, public and private agencies, boards, councils and commissions coordinating with the sanctuary encampment should communicate the needs of sanctioned encampments to transitional housing services with good faith.

All people sheltering themselves within a sanctuary encampment which a public authority shall provide clean water, sanitation, accessible toilets and trash removal services for the sanctioned encampment.

New Housing developments should consider and prioritize the most vulnerable citizens living in sanctioned encampments. There should be changes to land-use and zoning policies to include affordability covenants, community land trusts, housing cooperatives, section eight housing vouchers as well as reclaiming vacant properties for sanctioned encampments. Rent control ordinances to retain price-control for tenants and small-site property owners.

#### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The Commission considered responding to Council encampment chart referral.

#### CITY MANAGER

See companion report.

CONTACT PERSON

Brittany Carnegie, Commission Secretary, HHCS, 510-981-5415



Office of the City Manager

04b

ACTION CALENDAR

April 14, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager  
Submitted by: Lisa Warhuus, Director, Health, Housing, and Community Services  
Subject: Companion report: A People's First Sanctuary Encampment

RECOMMENDATION

As part of the referral adopted by City Council on January 21, 2020, the City Manager will direct staff to incorporate parts of the Commission's recommendations which do not conflict with guidance already approved by City Council including: providing clean water, sanitation, accessible toilets and trash removal services for the sanctioned encampment, requiring that a future provider of services for the encampment obtain input from residents of the encampment when developing rules for the outdoor shelter and ensure that the privacy and security of residents is respected and maintained.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Staff time.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Homeless Commission's report recommends that City Council adopt the People's First Sanctuary Encampment Model incorporating all text in their report.

On January 21, 2020 City Council approved \$307,000 in FY20 and \$615,000 in FY21 funding for an Emergency Outdoor Shelter and referred the creation of such a program to the City Manager.

The referral is for the City Manager to establish an outdoor emergency shelter and to consider providing the following amenities: a) climate-controlled, wind-resistant durable tents with wooden pallets for support, b) seeking an agency to manage and oversee the emergency shelter, c) portable toilet service and handwashing service, d) shower and sanitation services, and e) garbage pickup and safe needle disposal.

BACKGROUND

The Homeless Commission voted on 01/8/20 as follows:

**Action:** M/S/C Marasovic/ to defer the People's Sanctuary Encampment recommendation for discussion to next month's meeting and direct the Council

encampment chart referral back to the encampment subcommittee to be returned to the full Commission at next month's meeting.

**No Vote:** motion died for lack of a second.

**Action:** M/S/C Hill/ Mulligan to approve the People's First Sanctuary Recommendation with the following amendments to the recommendation section:

(i) to include that an oversight agency be named by members of the encampment community, and (ii) refer to the City Manager to fund liability insurance for the agency chosen by the encampment community.

**Vote:** Ayes: Hill, Kealoha-Blake, Mulligan, Behm-Steinberg  
Noes: Andrew. *Abstain:* Marasovic. *Absent:* Hirpara.

Marasovic abstention due to i) Council directive to respond to encampment chart referral, ii) believes in the spirit of self-governance, and iii) the recommendation is not a realistic plan.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental opportunities associated with the content of this report.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager appreciates the Homeless Commission's emphasis on ensuring that residents of a future outdoor emergency shelter can enjoy a clean and healthy place to live temporarily, and that they are involved in making the outdoor shelter a respectful, accountable and equitable community. To achieve this, the City Manager will develop an outdoor shelter program based on the referral adopted by Council January 21, 2020 that will include hiring a qualified non-profit organization to operate the program. The program model will ensure adequate sanitation services, safety protocols and other security measures are put in place, and that residents are assisted to move on to more permanent housing opportunities.

#### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

#### CONTACT PERSON

Brittany Carnegie, Community Services Specialist II, HHCS, 510-981-5415





Cheryl Davila  
Councilmember  
District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR  
December 1, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Councilmember Cheryl Davila (Author), Councilmember Kate Harrison (Co-Sponsor)  
Subject: Create and Support an Adopt an Unhoused community program.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Adopt a resolution to create and support neighborhood volunteers and community groups adopting an encampment, street campers, RV / Vehicle community, located along University Avenue/ Shattuck Avenue / Adeline corridor/ San Pablo Avenue and other areas throughout the City.
2. Short term referral to the City Manager and/or designee(s) to present to the City Council in 90 days: how to implement the program modeled after the City of Oakland Adopt a Spot Program, identify a community based organization to oversee the volunteers, know what is needed to adequately implement these efforts, including different organizational structure options.

BACKGROUND

On any given night, more than 1,000 Berkeley residents do not have shelter (i.e. living outdoors in tents, on sidewalks, or in vehicles) according to the [Alameda County 2019 Point-In-Time Count](#). A growing number of residents are housing insecure and at risk of becoming homeless. A majority of unhoused Berkeley residents are people of color, seniors, and the disabled.

The City of Berkeley spent close to \$20 million on providing homeless services. About \$6.5 million came from its general fund, about \$9.5 million came from regional, state, and federal funds and \$3.9 million were one-time funds from the state's Homeless Emergency Aid Program.

The City of Oakland currently has a Adopt a Spot program, where it allows volunteers and/or community groups to adopt a park, creek, shoreline, storm drain, street, trail, median or other public space you'd like to clean, green, or beautify on an ongoing basis. Participants adopt a public space and make a commitment to regularly clean and maintain the spot for no less than one year. The program allows volunteers to organize Community Cleanups and beautification events, joining with your neighbors and community. Volunteers have adopted hundreds of sites around Oakland. The City of Oakland support for this program is through Tool loans, Debris pick-up, and Technical assistance.

In addition, the City of Oakland has an Adopt a Drain program, where hundreds of volunteers across Oakland have adopted storm drains to help their neighborhoods prepare for rainstorms. It doesn't take much to keep a storm drain clear. A little volunteer effort goes a long way in helping Public Works maintain over 12,000 storm drains to reduce flooding and prevent pollution

of our waterways. When you sign up to Adopt a Drain, you become eligible to borrow City tools and supplies, and you will receive the City's rain alert notifications.

Thus, the City of Berkeley can learn from the City of Oakland and implement a similar program to help our unhoused community, i.e. adopting an encampment, street campers, RV / Vehicle community, and/or street intersections especially along University Avenue/ Shattuck Avenue / Adeline corridor/ San Pablo Avenue and others areas throughout the City.

Friends of Adeline, a diverse group of South Berkeley residents working in partnership with local businesses, nonprofits, and others to affect change has consistently supported the Here/There encampment when it was first formed. Friends of Adeline's member, Beloved, now deceased, Margy Wilkinson was able to get a port-a-potty and hand-washing station to be delivered at the encampment. Friends of Adeline supporting the Here/There encampment is a model of Adopting the Unhoused community, as well as the concepts of the City of Oakland's Adopt a Spot Program.

In order to get through the current crises we all face COVID-19, Shelter in Place (SIP), wildfires, smoke, etc), we need to allow, coordinate, enable and recognize volunteers from our neighborhoods and community groups to adopt our unhoused community. It truly does take a village.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

TBD, however, funds can possibly be identified with Measure O and P.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Allowing communities to have tools to prevent and stop fires furthers protects other communities and the environment.

#### CONTACT PERSONS

Cheryl Davila  
Councilmember District 2  
510.981.7120  
[cdavila@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:cdavila@cityofberkeley.info)

Sanjita Pamidimukkala  
Eshal Sandhu  
District 2 Interns

#### REFERENCES:

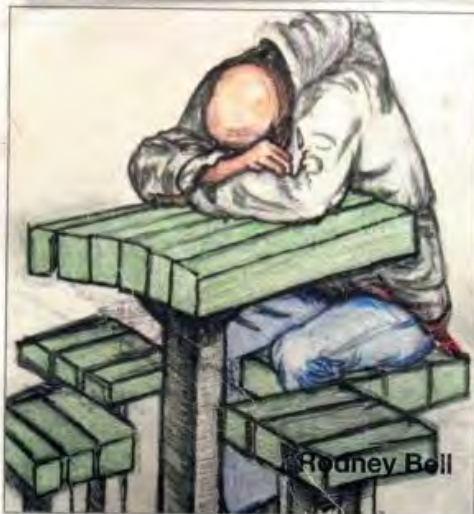
1. <http://www.oaklandadoptaspot.org>
2. <https://www.oaklandca.gov/services/sign-up-for-adopt-a-drain>
3. <https://thestreetspirit.org/2019/03/01/south-berkeley-here-there-encampment-celebrates-two-years/>

#### ATTACHMENTS:

1. Adopt a Homeless Senior Neighborhood Project Flyer
2. City of Oakland Adopt a Spot and Adopt a Drain Maps
3. Resolution

Attachment 1: Adopt a Homeless Senior Neighborhood Project

## ADOPT A HOMELESS SENIOR NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT



**Adopt a Homeless Senior Project**  
was started in 2018 with the ideas of 12 Berkeley neighbors who wanted to make a difference in our homeless community. We learned that over 1/2 of our homeless population were seniors and that over 85% of those seniors were homeless in the areas they were once housed. We agreed to support St. Mary's Center ([stmaryscenter.org](http://stmaryscenter.org)), a stellar (and secular) non-profit organization that provides a wide array of services to help get homeless seniors into housing. We would love other local neighborhoods to join us in our fund-raising efforts.

Contact: [barbara@barbarareiner.com](mailto:barbara@barbarareiner.com)

### THE ALAMEDA COUNTY 2019 EVERYONE COUNTS HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT & SURVEY

#### PRIMARY CAUSES OF HOMELESS:

13% Lost Job; 12% Mental Health; 10% Substance Use;  
9% Eviction/Foreclosure; 9% Rent Increase; 8% Incarceration

#### WHERE MOST HOMELESS ARE LIVING:

34% Tent; 23% Car/Van; 22% RV; 20% Street/Outside;  
1% Abandoned Building

#### PERCENTAGE OF HOMELESS POPULATION

WHO HAVE BEEN RESIDENTS OF

ALAMEDA COUNTY PRIOR TO

BECOMING HOMELESS:

78%

#### THE GERONTOLOGIST (FEBRUARY 2016)


BAY AREA AGE GROUP

WITH HIGHEST % OF

HOMELESSNESS:

50+

Attachment 2: Oakland Adopt a Spot and Adopt a Drain Maps



## Adopt a Drain

Part of Oakland Adopt a Spot

Volunteer to keep a drain clear and report any problems!

Email address

I haven't signed up yet  
 I've already signed up

Name (visible to others)

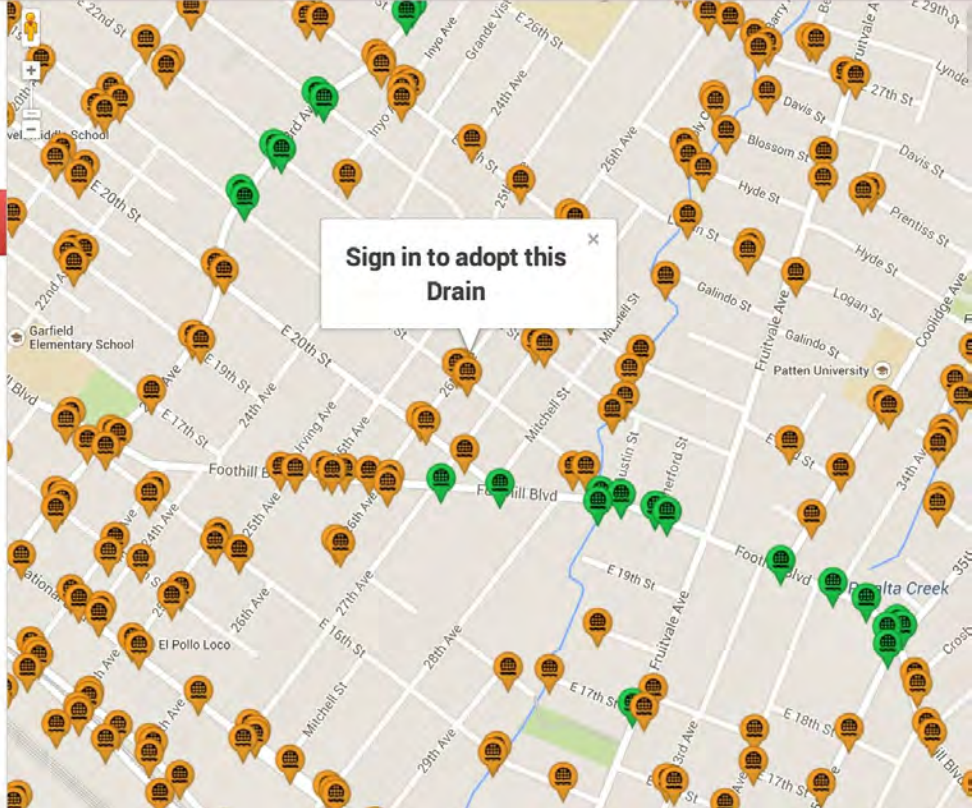
Organization (visible to others)

Home phone number

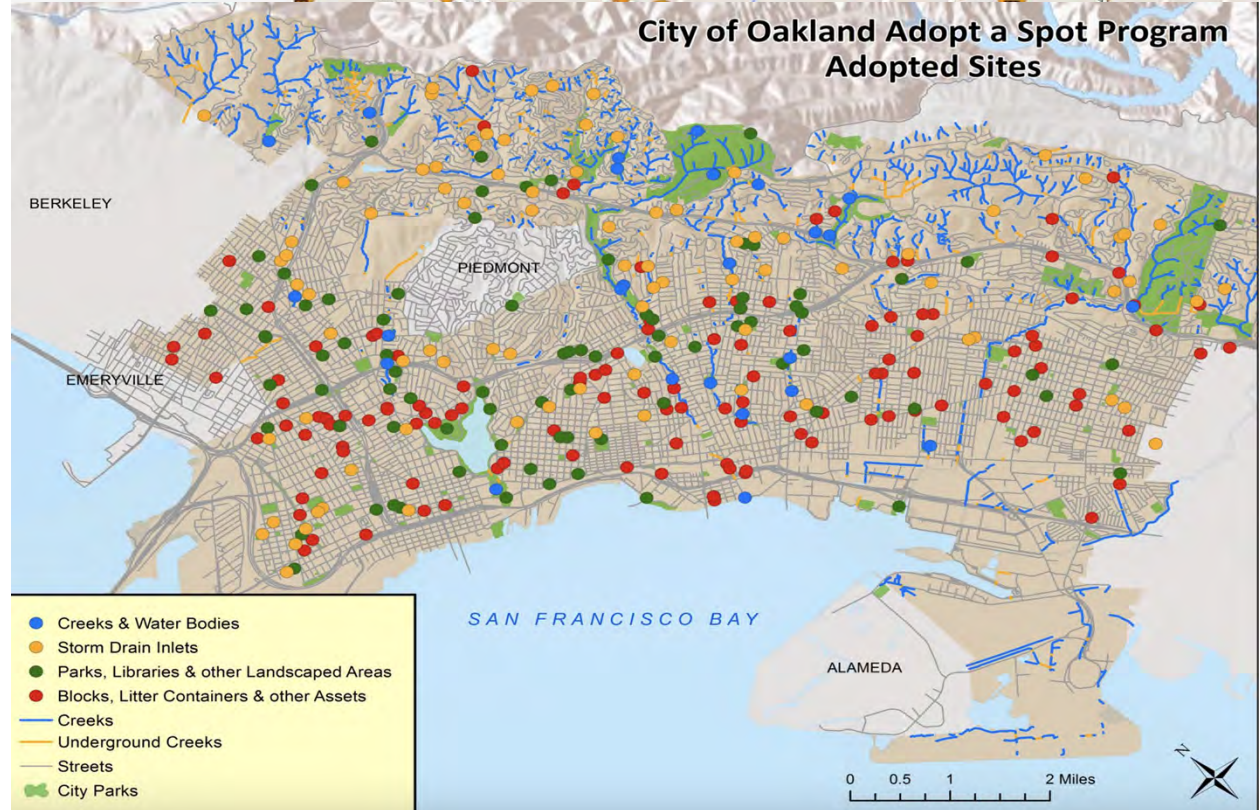
Mobile phone number

Choose a password

By signing up you agree to the [Terms of Service & Volunteer Guidelines](#)



Sign in to adopt this Drain



RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA,  
SUPPORTING THE CREATION AND SUPPORT AN ADOPT AN UNHOUSED COMMUNITY  
PROGRAM

WHEREAS, On any given night, more than 1,000 Berkeley residents do not have shelter (i.e. living outdoors in tents, on sidewalks, or in vehicles) according to the [Alameda County 2019 Point-In-Time Count](#). A growing number of residents are housing insecure and at risk of becoming homeless. A majority of unhoused Berkeley residents are people of color, seniors, and the disabled; and

WHEREAS, The City of Berkeley spent close to \$20 million on providing homeless services. About \$6.5 million came from its general fund, about \$9.5 million came from regional, state, and federal funds and \$3.9 million were one-time funds from the state's Homeless Emergency Aid Program; and

WHEREAS, The City of Oakland currently has a Adopt a Spot program, where it allows volunteers and/or community groups to adopt a park, creek, shoreline, storm drain, street, trail, median or other public space you'd like to clean, green, or beautify on an ongoing basis. Participants adopt a public space and make a commitment to regularly clean and maintain the spot for no less than one year. The program allows volunteers to organize Community Cleanups and beautification events, joining with your neighbors and community. Volunteers have adopted hundreds of sites around Oakland. The City of Oakland support for this program is through Tool loans, Debris pick-up, and Technical assistance; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the City of Oakland has an Adopt a Drain program, where hundreds of volunteers across Oakland have adopted storm drains to help their neighborhoods prepare for rainstorms. It doesn't take much to keep a storm drain clear. A little volunteer effort goes a long way in helping Public Works maintain over 12,000 storm drains to reduce flooding and prevent pollution of our waterways. When you sign up to Adopt a Drain, you become eligible to borrow City tools and supplies, and you will receive the City's rain alert notifications; and

WHEREAS, Thus, the City of Berkeley can learn from the City of Oakland and implement a similar program to help our unhoused community, i.e. adopting an encampment, street campers, RV / Vehicle community, and/or street intersections especially along University Avenue/ Shattuck Avenue / Adeline corridor/ San Pablo Avenue and others areas throughout the City; and

WHEREAS, Friends of Adeline, a diverse group of South Berkeley residents working in partnership with local businesses, nonprofits, and others to affect change has consistently supported the Here/There encampment when it was first formed. Friends of Adeline's member, Beloved, now deceased, Margy Wilkinson was able to get a port-a-potty and hand-washing station to be delivered at the encampment. Friends of Adeline supporting the Here/There encampment is a model of Adopting the Unhoused community, as well as the concepts of the City of Oakland's Adopt a Spot Program; and

WHEREAS, In order to get through the current crises we all face COVID-19, Shelter in Place (SIP), wildfires, smoke, etc), we need to allow, coordinate, enable and recognize volunteers from our neighborhoods and community groups to adopt our unhoused community. It truly does take a village; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Berkeley, hereby support the creation and support an Adopt an Unhoused community program, as well as provide support to neighborhood volunteers and community groups adopting an encampment, street campers, RV / Vehicle community, located along University Avenue/ Shattuck Avenue / Adeline corridor/ San Pablo Avenue and other areas throughout the City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Short term referral to the City Manager and/or designee(s) to present to the City Council in 90 days: how to implement the program modeled after the City of Oakland Adopt a Spot Program, identify a community based organization to oversee the volunteers, know what is needed to adequately implement these efforts, including different organizational structure options.







Cheryl Davila  
Councilmember  
District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR  
September 15, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Cheryl Davila

Subject: Support Vision 2025 for Sustainable for Sustainable Food Policies

RECOMMENDATION

1. Adopt a Resolution Supporting Vision 2025 for Sustainable Food Policies
2. Join [San Francisco](#), [Chicago](#) and [Austin](#) in signing the [Milan Urban Food Policy Pact \(MUFPP\)](#) which includes forming an advisory body on sustainable food policies.
3. Support adoption of a Climate-Friendly Food Purchasing Policy as described by [Friends of the Earth](#) to replace 50% of the City's annual animal-based food procurement with plant-based food.
4. Short Term Referral to the City Manager to:
  - a. Track the amount of animal-based food replaced with plant-based food
  - b. Use Friends of the Earth's Municipal Guide to Climate-Friendly Food Purchasing for the procurement of plant-based food.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

In June, 2018 the City of Berkeley unanimously passed a Climate Emergency Declaration, then in September, 2018 passed the Resolution Establishing Green Monday. Berkeley should understand the impact of our food sector on the environment, sustainability of natural resources, health, and social equity. By adopting Vision 2025 for Sustainable Food Policies, Berkeley will sign MUFPP and join C40 Cities in developing sustainable food systems through forming an advisory body with local activists, organizations, and business owners. Berkeley would join the C40 North America cities, Austin, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, Montreal, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Portland, San Francisco, Toronto, Vancouver, and Washington DC and more cities may follow suit. Adopting the Vision 2025, the City of Berkeley would be committed to making food purchasing decisions that protect animal welfare, environmental sustainability, and provide healthy food options. By adopting the proposed Vision, Berkeley would also pass Climate-Friendly Food Purchasing Policy and commit to replacing 50% of annual animal-based food purchasing with plant-based food.

#### OUTCOMES AND EVALUATIONS:

Berkeley City Council would receive policy recommendations from the established advisory body for increasing climate-friendly, healthy and sustainable plant-based food options. The City Council should evaluate and update contracts with food vendors.

#### BACKGROUND

According to MUFPP, our food choices are directly linked to our environmental, health and social wellbeing. What we put on our plates every day either contributes to, or harms our physical wellbeing, our local economy, and our global resources. Approximately, 80% of the U.S. population lives in urban areas.<sup>1</sup> This means that urban cities are responsible for a significant portion of the national food consumption, and with it, the environmental and social impacts of those food choices. As a result, the C40 cities like San Francisco, Chicago and Austin have signed MUFPP agreements in order to develop environment-friendly, healthy and socially equitable food policies.<sup>2</sup> The City of Berkeley has wisely adopted Green Monday and the Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP). But there is certainly a need to develop broader policies for significant improvement. Vision 2025 is designed to achieve this significant change over the next five years without causing a financial burden to the City of Berkeley. In fact, could result in overall cost savings.

By adopting Vision 2025, the City would be agreeing to sign MUFPP developed with the support of international organizations including the United Nations Farm and Agriculture Organization (UN FAO). The MUFPP suggests forming an advisory committee that would include local activists, organizations, business owners and other stakeholders to propose sustainable food policies. The second action item under the resolution is to pass a Climate-Friendly Food Purchasing policy that requires the City to replace 50% of animal-based food procurement with plant-based food.

Globally, several agencies are reporting the devastating impacts of a meat- and dairy-based diet for our physical and environmental health. The UN FAO reports that animal agriculture is responsible for emitting 18% of our planet's total greenhouse gas (GHG).<sup>3</sup> These numbers are larger than the total GHG emissions from fossil fuels burned by the global transportation sector. The agriculture sector is expected to contribute 70% of total allowable GHG emissions by 2050, risking the Paris Agreement.<sup>6</sup> Livestock and poultry account for more than 60% of the global agricultural GHG emissions and, therefore, addressing the emissions from animal agriculture is crucial in order to meet the Paris Agreement.<sup>3,6</sup> According to the consumption-based GHG inventory described in Berkeley's Climate Action Plan, the food sector contributes more than 7 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> Eq. per household.<sup>5</sup> Most of these emissions are from animal products like meat and dairy.<sup>5</sup> The GHG emissions from meat consumption alone is more than the combined natural gas emissions in the City of Berkeley.

The negative impact of producing meat and dairy goes beyond global warming. In a drought-affected state, the average Californian consumes 1,500 gallons of water, and 50% of it is associated with meat and dairy consumption.<sup>7</sup> According to UN FAO, we have enough cropland to feed 9 billion people by 2050 if 40% of all crops produced today for livestock is directly used

for human consumption.<sup>8</sup> Globally, animal agriculture is the leading cause of tropical deforestation and it has massive impacts on climate change and biodiversity.<sup>9,10</sup> The destruction of forests and biodiversity forces wildlife to live closer to human populations, risking the spread of infectious diseases like Ebola and COVID-19.<sup>11</sup> Additionally, the production of meat and dairy puts us in close contact with domesticated animals resulting in the spillover of zoonotic pathogens like the influenza virus. The consumption of meat and dairy is associated with an increased risk of chronic illnesses like diabetes, heart disease, and cancer.<sup>12,13</sup> This type of diet significantly increases our healthcare costs, disproportionately jeopardizing the well-being of low-income families. The growing livestock biomass within confined spaces demands the increased use of antibiotics. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the excessive use of antibiotics serves as a breeding ground for antibiotic-resistant bacteria like Salmonella<sup>14</sup>. As a result, we are facing an uphill battle of antibiotic resistance. Recently, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Antibiotic Awareness Week in November.

According to multiple reports, the single solution to achieve environmental sustainability within the food sector is by reducing the overall number of livestock and increasing our plant-based food options. The University of Oxford's most comprehensive meta-analysis reports that 83% of world farmland is used for livestock production to provide only 18% and 37% of our calories and protein, respectively.<sup>4</sup> The replacement of animal products with plant based food can free-up farmland that could remove additional 8.1 billion metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> Eq. every year for next 100 years.<sup>4</sup> As a result, the 50% replacement of animal products with plant-based food can reduce 20% of total anthropogenic GHG emissions across all sectors.<sup>4</sup> According to World Resource Institute, the almost 50% reduction of animal products in the average U.S. diet can reduce more than 40% of the country's agriculture GHG emission and land use.<sup>6</sup>

The City of Berkeley purchases almost \$5 million worth of food for places like senior centers, the Police Department's jail facility, public meetings, and events. As a result, Berkeley's purchasing power has a huge role to play in increasing plant-based food options. The municipal guide from Friends of the Earth (FOE) on Climate-Friendly Food Purchasing is an effective tool for increasing plant-based food options. It provides a stepwise process for municipalities to meet their target of increasing plant-based food options. Berkeley's potential to provide sustainable food is beyond the city's purchasing power. It includes, but is not limited to City parks, public schools, restaurants, and other food businesses.

Berkeley would join a good company by adopting Vision 2025. Recently, U.S. legislators have identified the importance of increasing plant-based food and milk options across various cities, states, as well as in Congress. Senator Cory Booker has introduced the Farm System Reform Act to completely phase out of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO). Senator Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders are co-sponsoring the bill, and Representative Ro Khanna has introduced a companion bill in the House. California Assembly Bill 479 encourages public schools to provide healthy, climate-friendly (plant-based) food and milk options. This active bill has been well-received by both the State Assembly and Senate. Los Angeles and other C40 Cities have committed to establish a planetary diet of consuming only 300 grams of

meat per person in a week. New York City Council recently declared a plan to phase out processed meat and to cut down its beef purchasing by 50% in city facilities. The decision was part of the City's Green New Deal for addressing global warming. More locally, Oakland Unified School District decreased carbon footprint by 14%, water consumption by 6% and saved \$42,000 through increasing fruits, vegetables and legumes purchase and reducing meat and dairy consumption by 30%.<sup>15</sup> This low-carbon commitment by one of California's largest school districts has shown the potential for protecting the environment and natural resources through healthy and cost-effective plant-based food options.

#### REVIEW EXISTING PROGRAMS, POLICIES, AND LAWS

Vision 2025 is aligned well with Berkeley's Green Monday initiative and GFPP. Green Monday recommends serving plant-based food once a week along with raising awareness about the positive impacts of plant-based food choices on the environment. Various reports suggest that animal products alone can jeopardize the Paris Agreement to keep the global surface temperature below 2C and could threaten scarce natural resources by 2050. Significant changes in our food choices need to happen for the wellbeing of our environment and global sustainability. It demands us to extend our efforts in increasing plant-based options through specific policies in the next 5 years.

GFPP is a certification-based program that also promotes antibiotic-free and grass-fed beef. The increasing demand for animal products requires that livestock are kept in confined spaces making them vulnerable to diseases. Therefore, it is not feasible to harvest animal products at a global scale without using antibiotics in livestock. The excessive use of antibiotics has already resulted in many antibiotic-resistant bacteria, pushing countries like India and China to use last-resort antibiotic drugs, like colistin.<sup>16</sup> It will also be socially inequitable if we were to use excessive resources, like pastureland, to harvest grass-fed and antibiotic-free animal products only for wealthy families and developed nations. Additionally, the grass-fed cows contribute more methane than the grain-fed cows in CAFO.<sup>17</sup> As a result, these existing initiatives and programs require Berkeley to extend plant-based options through other programs and policies.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no imposed cost but could result in savings associated with adopting this recommendation.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

This item is in alignment with Berkeley's commitment to environmental sustainability and programs like Green Monday and GFPP. The adoption of Vision 2025 for Sustainable Food Policies will significantly reduce Berkeley's food sector associated GHG emissions, deforestation, fresh water and antibiotic consumption. It will also help Berkeley to transition towards healthy and globally sustainable food practices.

CONTACT PERSONS

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ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution

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RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA,  
ADOPTING VISION 2025 FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD POLICIES

WHEREAS, roughly 80% of the U.S. population live in urban areas, suggesting the important role of U.S. Cities for establishing a culture of sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has declared a Climate Emergency for protecting our environment, human population and biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley is putting best efforts to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in order to reverse global warming as quickly as possible; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley's consumption-based GHG inventory shows significant emissions associated with the City's food system; and

WHEREAS, the World Resource Institute (WRI) reports that the agriculture sector will be responsible for 70% of the total allowable emissions by 2050, risking Paris Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO) reports that more than 60% of agriculture emissions come from the livestock sector, and it is estimated to be higher than fossil fuel emissions from the entire transportation sector; and

WHEREAS, the scientific analysis shows the urgency to reduce GHG emissions from animal agriculture in order to meet the Paris Agreement of keeping an average global surface temperature below 2C; and

WHEREAS, California is one of the most drought-affected states, and almost 50% of Californian's water footprint is associated with consumption of meat and dairy; and

WHEREAS, the cattle industry is the leading cause of deforestation in the Amazon rainforest that is home to 10% of the world's species and a major source of vital oxygen; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. food sector is globally interconnected because of the import-export trading and therefore, our food choice directly impacts the Amazon deforestation and biodiversity loss; and

WHEREAS, 83% of agriculture land is used for raising livestock and producing their feed, but meat and dairy only provide 18% of the world's calories; and

WHEREAS, the WRI estimates a 56% increase in crop calorie demand in order to feed 9 billion people by 2050, requiring an extra 593 million hectares of agriculture land, which is twice the size of India; and

WHEREAS, the world already produces enough food to feed 9 billion people if we use crop calories to directly feed the human population; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. pours significant agriculture resources to grows crops for feeding livestock and poultry while more than 800 million people are food insecure, and 45% of children die under 5 years of age due to malnutrition; and

WHEREAS, the WHO reports that 60% of all human disease originates in animals and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates 3 out of every 4 emerging infectious diseases come from animals; and

WHEREAS, the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) risk spillover of zoonotic pathogens by confining animals and bringing human beings into proximity with them; and

WHEREAS, the CAFO negatively impacts the health of surrounding communities through air and water pollution, and the majority of these homes belong to African Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicines (PCRM) reports that meat and dairy consumption is associated with the increased risk of chronic illness like cancer, diabetes and heart disease in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified processed meat like ham, bacon, hotdogs, sausage, and some deli meat as carcinogenic and red meat as a probable carcinogen; and

WHEREAS, studies show that over 90% of the people dying from COVID-19 have had pre-existing conditions, mostly from chronic diseases such as heart disease and type 2 diabetes; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted communities of color, with black Americans hospitalized at 4.5 times the rate of white Americans and Hispanic Americans hospitalized at 4 times the rate of white Americans; and

WHEREAS, communities of color experience higher rates of heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and other chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, the socio-economic and cultural factors that cause poor health conditions in many communities of color can be found in all of our nation's struggling communities; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of the slaughterhouse workers are undocumented and forced to meet ever-growing line speed under the threat of deportation; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. workers in meat plants are three times more likely to suffer a serious injury with an average of two amputations per week; and

WHEREAS, the slaughterhouse workers are exposed to extremely stressful environments including physical, psychological and sexual abuse and many of them develop post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); and

WHEREAS, overfishing is destroying marine biodiversity, and aquaculture imposes a threat to our environment; and

WHEREAS, Project Drawdown reports shifting our diet towards plant-based food as one of the most significant solutions to climate change; and

WHEREAS, WRI recommends shifting our diet to plant-based in order to reduce GHG emissions, agriculture land-use and protect public health; and

WHEREAS, WRI reports that replacing almost 50% of animal-based food in the average U.S. diet with plant-based options could reduce more than 40% of agriculture land and GHG emissions; and

WHEREAS, Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) summit delivered a letter signed by 65 scientists calling world mayors to reduce the consumption of animal-based food; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles and 13 other C40 Cities have signed a declaration to reduce procurement of meat products to 300 grams (two burger patties) per person per week by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has already started establishing sustainable food systems through passing Green Monday and Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP) and recognizes the need of expanding these efforts; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Berkeley hereby adopts Vision 2025 for establishing sustainable food systems, wherein the City of Berkeley joins [San Francisco](#), [Chicago](#) and [Austin](#) in signing the [Milan Urban Food Policy Pact \(MUFPP\)](#) which includes forming an advisory body on sustainable food policies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Berkeley supports adoption of a Climate-Friendly Food Purchasing Policy as described by [Friends of the Earth](#) to replace 50% of the City's annual animal-based food procurement with plant-based food.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Berkeley does a Short Term Referral to the City Manager to: (a) Track the amount of animal-based food replaced with plant-based food; (b) Use Friends of the Earth's Municipal Guide to Climate-Friendly Food Purchasing for the procurement of plant-based food.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley will bring various stakeholders together including local activists, organizations and business owners to form an advisory body; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the advisory body will meet once a month to review the implementation of current sustainable food programs, identify gaps and propose new programs to the City Council.





Commission on Disability

07

CONSENT CALENDAR

April 14, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Commission on Disability  
 Submitted by: Alex Ghenis, Chairperson, Commission on Disability  
 Subject: Service Animals Welcome Training

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council refer to the City Manager a request to implement education and training provisions of the Service Animals Welcome Policy and Program:

- a. Work with Business Improvement Districts and Commercial District Organizations to provide opportunities for businesses to learn about their responsibilities regarding service animals in their places of business.
- b. Provide information on Service Animals and Access Rights of Persons with Disabilities accompanied by a Service Animal as required staff training on non-discrimination under applicable federal, state and local statutes, regulations and policies.
- c. Provide necessary and adequate support to the Disability Compliance Program.  
 (Motion: Walsh, Second: Singer, Ghenis: Aye, Smith; Aye, Ramirez: LOA, Leeder: LOA, No: None)

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Staff time.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The 2019 Berkeley Business License Renewal Packet contained information on the Service Animals Welcome Policy and guidance from the U.S., Department of Justice Civil Rights Division on Service Animals in places of public accommodation.

Most Berkeley Business License holders received the 2019 packet but may not have seen or read the materials on Service Animals. As recently as October 2018, a case was documented of a Berkeley Business License holder who refused access and services to a person with a disability accompanied by a service animal (dog) trained to assist her relative to her specific disability and functional limitations. The License Holder stated that she was unaware of City policy or applicable law regarding Service Animals.

According to update information from staff as recently as September 2018, there has been no formal provision of training to City staff, especially for departments and positions with whom face-to-face contact with the public is required. This information is also important for staff in various City Departments who interact with businesses .e.g. Business Improvement

District contract staff, the Berkeley Police Department, contracted health and community services providers. Such training can be most efficiently provided online to City staff.

Service Animals Welcome training is a Strategic Plan Priority Project, advancing our goal to champion and demonstrate social and racial equity.

### BACKGROUND

On May 12, 2012, the City Council adopted the Service Animals Welcome Policy and Program, Resolution Number 65,751-N.S. The City Manager was directed to take certain implementation steps including:

- a. Incorporate educational materials in the Business License Tax process to inform business owners of their responsibilities regarding service animals;
- b. Include content about service animals and the responsibilities of Berkeley Businesses on the City's website; also include the phone number for the Disability Services Specialist;
- c. Provide signs for businesses to voluntarily put in their windows regarding service animals; and
- d. Work with Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and Commercial District Organizations (CDOs) to provide opportunities for businesses to learn about their responsibilities regarding service animals in their places of business

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Unknown.

### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

As defined under the 2010 revision of the Americans with Disabilities ACT implemented in March 2012, denying a disabled person access to goods or services, in city and local governments or places of public accommodation based on being accompanied by a service animal is unlawful.

The Disability Compliance Program only has authority to enforce Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act as it relates to programs and services. However it can provide information and training to encourage compliance.

Implementation of training will significantly contribute to decreased incidences of discrimination in Berkeley based on a person's disability. It will significantly contribute to increasing and enhancing access for the persons with disabilities accompanied by a Service Animal who live, work and visit Berkeley.

### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Do not provide Service Animals Welcome Training.

### CITY MANAGER

The City Manager takes no position on the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report.

### CONTACT PERSON

Dominika Bednarska, Disability Services Specialist, Public Works, (510) 981-6418