

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-103

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THAT RACISM IS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS THAT RESULTS IN DISPARITIES IN FAMILY STABILITY, HEALTH AND MENTAL WELLNESS, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY, CRIMINAL JUSTICE, AND HOUSING

On Tuesday June 23, 2020, on motion of Supervisor Rutherford, duly seconded by Supervisor Lovingood and carried, the following resolution is adopted by the Board of Supervisors of San Bernardino County, State of California.

WHEREAS, racism results in the structuring of opportunity and assigning of value based solely on skin color and other physical characteristics, which creates unfair disadvantages to some individuals and communities and unfair advantages to other individuals and communities, therefore preventing societies as a whole from achieving their full potential; and

WHEREAS, throughout history, racism has manifested as discrimination and oppression directed toward numerous populations, resulting in trauma, terror, and long-term physical and mental health impairments for the targets of racism, their communities, and subsequent generations; and

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

WHEREAS, in its Vision, Mission, Values and Goals, the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health states that its values include, "We ensure that all individuals and communities have equal opportunity for health and well-being"; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau has documented a significant increase in anxiety and depression among Black people nationally following the May 25, 2020 killing of George Floyd; and

WHEREAS, the Countywide Vision adopted by the Board of Supervisors and elected representatives of all twenty-four San Bernardino County incorporated Cities and Towns on June 30, 2011 begins with the words, "We envision a complete County that capitalizes on the diversity of its people"; and

WHEREAS, racism creates disparate outcomes in many areas of life that serve as the elemental foundation of the Countywide Vision, including housing, education, employment and the economy, public safety and criminal justice, and physical and behavioral health; and

WHEREAS, specific physical and behavioral health conditions stemming from racism include depression, anxiety, anger, hypertension, stroke, heart attack, diabetes, maternal death, premature birth, respiratory diseases, and autoimmune diseases; and

WHEREAS, racism has given rise to geographic segregation that disproportionately exposes people of color to lead poisoning, poor air quality, inadequate nutrition, and under-resourced recreational and healthcare facilities; and

WHEREAS, the infant mortality rate within San Bernardino County's Black population is more than double the rate for the County as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Black people account for less than 9 percent of the County's population but almost 19 percent of County jail bookings and 38 percent of the bookings into County juvenile detention facilities; and

WHEREAS, more than 21 percent of the County's homeless population is Black; and

WHEREAS, the Black homeownership rate in San Bernardino County is less than 43 percent but stands at 60 percent for the County as a whole; and

WHEREAS, in San Bernardino County, only 17 percent of Black students compared to more than 31 percent of all students are proficient in math and less than 35 percent of Black students compared to almost 45 percent of all students are proficient in English/Language Arts; and

WHEREAS, in San Bernardino County, the college and career readiness rate is 44 percent for all students but is only 30 percent for Black students; Meanwhile, suspension and expulsion rates for Black students are more than twice the respective rates for all students; and

WHEREAS, helping people process the trauma of past injustice and create new narratives based upon equity, fairness, and equal justice can have healing effects, both mentally and physically,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino affirms that racism is a public health crisis that results in disparities in family stability, health and mental wellness, education, employment, economic development, public safety, criminal justice, and housing.

Furthermore, based upon this affirmation, the County will actively participate in the dismantling of racism by:

- Working with community partners to establish "Equity" as an eleventh element within the Countywide Vision; create an active and vibrant Equity Element Group that would identify programs, policies, and collaborations to address the effects, impacts, and prevention of racism; and ensure membership of the Group is diverse in terms of ethnicity, age, and gender, and includes members of the Black community.
- Collaborating with the County's law and justice agencies and the community to ensure public confidence that public safety is administered equitably by ensuring that meaningful discussions are conducted by the Equity Element Group on identifying mechanisms for researching and addressing public concerns related to law enforcement performance within San Bernardino County; and
- Promoting equity through policies to be considered by the Board of Supervisors and enhancing meaningful, thoughtful, and data-driven education efforts aimed at understanding, addressing, and dismantling racism, and how racism affects public health, family stability, early education, economic development, public safety, and the delivery of human services.
- Identifying specific activities to enhance diversity within the County Government workforce.
- Advocating through the California State Association of Counties and the National Association of Counties for relevant policies that improve health outcomes in communities of color, and supporting local, regional, state, and federal initiatives that advance efforts to dismantle systemic racism.
- Building and strengthening alliances with other organizations that are confronting racism, and encouraging other agencies to recognize racism as a crisis, including considering County membership in the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), which is a national network of local government agencies working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all.

- Supporting community efforts to amplify issues of racism and engaging actively and authentically with communities of color throughout our County.
- Studying and evaluating existing County policies and practices through a lens of racial equity to promote and support policies that prioritize health in an equitable way, especially for people of color, by mitigating exposure to adverse childhood experiences.
- Hereby encouraging each of the twenty-four incorporated cities and towns within San Bernardino County to also adopt resolutions affirming that racism is a public health crisis that results in disparities in family stability, health and mental wellness, education, employment, economic development, public safety, criminal justice, and housing.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino, State of California, by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS: Robert A. Lovingood, Janice Rutherford, Dawn Rowe, Curt Hagman, Josie Gonzales

NOES: SUPERVISORS: None

ABSENT: SUPERVISORS: None

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
)
 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO) ss.

I, **LYNNA MONELL**, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino, State of California, hereby certify the foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of the record of the action taken by the Board of Supervisors, by vote of the members present, as the same appears in the Official Minutes of said Board at its meeting of June 23, 2020. #129 jm

LYNNA MONELL
 Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By  Deputy

