



RESOLUTION 2021-04

PRINCETON BOARD OF HEALTH

RESOLUTION PROPOSING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STRUCTURAL RACISM TASKFORCE TO HELP ADDRESS RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

WHEREAS, Council unanimously voted on resolution 195-20 declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis;

WHEREAS, the Board of Health fully supports resolution 195-20;

WHEREAS, race is a social construct with no biological basis;

WHEREAS, racism is a social system with multiple dimensions: individual racism that is interpersonal/internalized or systemic racism that is institutional/structural.

WHEREAS, racism is a system of structuring opportunity and assigning value based on the social interpretation of how one looks;

WHEREAS, racism unfairly disadvantages specific individuals and communities, while unfairly giving advantages to other individuals and communities;

WHEREAS, racism causes persistent discrimination and disparate outcomes in many areas of life, including housing, education, employment, & criminal justice, and is itself a social determinant of health;

WHEREAS, racism has exacerbated a health divide resulting in people of color bearing a disproportionate burden of illness and mortality including but not limited to COVID-19 infection and death, heart disease, diabetes, as well as infant and maternal mortality;

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

WHEREAS, Black, Latino, Indigenous and Asian residents are more likely to experience poor health outcomes as a consequence of racism;

WHEREAS, the collective prosperity and wellbeing of Princeton depends upon equitable access to opportunities for every resident regardless of the color of their skin;

The Municipality of Princeton pledges to:

1. Asserts that racism is a public health crisis affecting our entire society.
2. Advocates for changes at the local, state, and federal levels that advance racial justice, the dismantling of systemic racism, and that improve the health and wellbeing of people of color.
3. Requests that Council and Mayor establish a taskforce that is reflective of Princeton's diverseracial makeup and where possible includes (but is not limited to) individuals with expertise representing various sectors (e.g. health, civil rights, education, criminal justice, housing, parks, and the arts) as well as segments of the community (e.g. the university, religious institutions, not-for-profits, community based organizations and local businesses).
4. Requests that the taskforce be charged with providing informed recommendations, programmatic solutions, community outreach, and legislative options to help address and therefore reverse the consequences of systemic and structural racism.
5. Requests that Council and Mayor consider making immediately available adequate resources to support staffing needs for the taskforce as well as an initial funding allocation to support programming. Consideration is also requested that funding be made available in the form of honoraria for those individuals who do not have employers and/or resources which support their ability to volunteer on the taskforce.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the **Princeton Board of Health, on Tuesday, September 14, 2021** to take the aforementioned steps with regard to our municipal responsibilities with the intent of making the Municipality of Princeton advocates for eliminating structural racism by creating a taskforce.

Gwendolyn Krol
Acting Recording Secretary

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