

**BOROUGH OF RED BANK**

**COUNTY OF MONMOUTH**

**RESOLUTION NO. 21-139**

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING RACISM A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS**

**WHEREAS**, race is a social construct with no biological basis but a social reality that shapes our lives; and

**WHEREAS**, racism is a social system with multiple dimensions; individual racism is internalized or interpersonal; systemic racism is institutional or structural and is a system of structuring opportunity and assigning value based on race which unfairly disadvantages specific individuals and communities while unfairly giving advantages to other individuals and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, all across the country we are witnessing moral outrage against police brutality against Black Americans and the pervasive impacts of racism on the Black community's health and wellbeing; and

**WHEREAS**, data that suggests Black New Jerseyans are dying at a disproportionately higher rate from COVID-19 than their counterparts of other races; and

**WHEREAS**, women of color account for nearly 60% of all pregnancy-related maternal deaths in New Jersey and Black woman are over four times more likely to lose their lives during childbirth than their white counterparts; and

**WHEREAS**, communities of color, those of low socio-economic status and those that suffer from disabilities are more likely to experience poor health outcomes as a consequence of the social determinants of health; health inequities stemming from economic stability, education, physical environment, food and access to health care systems; and

**WHEREAS**, structural racism influences many areas of life including housing, education, employment, health care and criminal justice and an emerging body of research demonstrates that racism itself is a social determinant of mental and physical health; and

**WHEREAS**, health varies markedly by income within every racial group and racial and ethnic differences can be seen at each level of income. These patterns are seen across a wide range of health conditions. At the same time, finding from studies in the U.S. and other countries have found that perceived racial/ethnic bias, and the resulting toxic stress, makes an additional contribution to racial and ethnic disparities in health; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Public Health Association (APHA) launched a National Campaign against Racism.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that it is our duty to assure all in our communities are considered and included and that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Red Bank will assert that racism is a public health crisis affecting our entire community and advocate for relevant policies that support local, state, regional and federal initiatives that advance efforts to dismantle systemic racism.

	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Yassin		X			
Councilwoman Triggiano		X			
Councilman Ballard		X			
Councilman Yngstrom	Second	X			
Councilman Zipprich	Motion	X			
Councilwoman Horgan		X			

Dated: May 12, 2021

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Council of the Borough of Red Bank, in the County of Monmouth, at a meeting held on May 12, 2021.

Pamela Borghi

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Pamela Borghi, Municipal Clerk