

BY: ALL MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Strongly supporting the recognition of racism as a public health crisis and requesting that the Richland Public Health Board make a similar declaration and partner with the local community to create a task force or organizing committee to address this issue as detailed below, and declaring a public health emergency.

WHEREAS, Mansfield, Ohio has a diverse population of 46,720; eighteen percent of the residents identify as African American, with twenty-eight percent identifying as people of color; and

WHEREAS, Richland County Ohio has a population of 121,533, and the ethnic composition of Richland County Ohio is fourteen percent people of color, with eight percent identifying as African-American; and

WHEREAS, the rich diversity of this community speaks to the need of lifting our collective voices to improve the lives of people of color living in Mansfield and Richland County, and further that racism, not race, also causes disproportionately high rates of homelessness, incarceration, poor education, health issues, including mental health, and economic hardship for African Americans particularly, as well as for other communities of color; and

WHEREAS, as a community, we must address the injustices of racism and ensure equal opportunity for all who live in Mansfield and Richland County; we stand together as brothers and sisters to address racism as a community crisis; and

WHEREAS, Mansfield and Richland County has a diverse array of community organizations, who join the state of Ohio in demanding that racism be recognized as a public health emergency; and whereas these organizations are committed to organizing and leading efforts to end racism in partnership with Richland Public Health.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF MANSFIELD, STATE OF OHIO:**

SECTION 1. This Council does hereby declare its strong belief that racism, not race, causes many problems and health disparities related to social determinants of health, including disproportionately high rates of homelessness, incarceration, poor education, health issues, including mental health, and economic hardship for African Americans particularly, as well as for other communities of color, and as such should be recognized as a public health emergency by the Richland Public Health Board.

SECTION 2. This Council does hereby request that the Richland Public Health Board make a similar declaration and partner with the local community to create a task force or organizing committee to:

- Provide equity and justice-oriented organizations, by identifying specific activities, policies, and processes to embrace diversity and to incorporate antiracism principles across the community, its agencies, leader staffing, and contracting.

- Develop a plan to understand, address, and dismantle racism, to undo how racism affects individual and population health and provide tools to engage actively and authentically with communities of color.
- Advocate for relevant policies that improve health in communities of color, and support local, state, regional, and federal initiatives that advance efforts to dismantle systemic racism.
- Work to build alliances and partnerships with other organizations that are confronting racism and encourage other local, state, regional, and national entities to recognize racism as a public health crisis.
- Use a racial equity lens to review public health activities and ensure data collection is comprehensive, educational initiatives are culturally competent, and policies are implemented to address the social determinants of health rather than to reproduce them.

SECTION 3. That the Clerk of Council is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the Richland Public Health Board.

SECTION 4. This Resolution is declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the City; therefore, this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption by Council and approval by the Mayor.

Caucus	<u>16 June 2020</u>		
1 st Reading	<u>16 June 2020</u>		
2 nd Reading	<u>16 June 2020</u>		
PASSED	<u>16 June 2020</u>	SIGNED	<u>/s/ Cliff Mears</u> President of Council
ATTEST	<u>/s/ Amy L. Yockey</u> Clerk of Council	APPROVED	<u>/s/ Timothy L. Theaker</u> Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM: John R. Spon
 Law Director
 City of Mansfield, Ohio

