

BY: ALL MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Joining with the Public Health Accreditation Board and Governor Mike DeWine in declaring racism a public health crisis, and requesting that the Richland Public Health Board partner with the local community to create a task force or organizing committee to address this issue as detailed below, and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, Richland Public Health’s governing body, the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), as well as the Public Health National Center for Innovations (PHNCI) and Ohio Governor Mike DeWine have all declared racism a public health crisis; and

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, people of color in Richland County show disparate health outcomes including 300% higher infant mortality rates (Ohio Dept of Health); 20% more serious mental health conditions (NAMI); higher rates of high blood pressure, asthma, diabetes, and congestive heart failure (Richland Public Health), and 3.5 years shorter life span (CDC); and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the health crisis for people of color, especially the black community, which makes up 13% of Ohio’s population but accounts for 27% of COVID cases and 19% of deaths, and

WHEREAS, systemic racism 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;

WHEREAS, Mansfield and Richland County have a diverse array of community organizations, who recognize that racism is a public health emergency and 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 systemic 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 communities of color, and as such requests the Richland Public Health Board work with community partners to eliminate health disparities and improve health outcomes for people of color.

SECTION 2. This Council does hereby request that the Richland Public Health Board partner with the local community in discovering the causes and solutions of disparate health outcomes for the Black community and other people of color in Mansfield/Richland County, to participate in the creation of a community task force to address these issues, and to integrate this work into RPH's ongoing efforts to safeguard and improve community health in Richland County, such as the Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan.

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.