

City of Port Huron, Michigan
RES #20-054

City Council of the City of Port Huron Declaration of Racism and Social Inequities as a Public Health Crisis (requested by Councilmember Ashford).

WHEREAS, the Port Huron City Council of the City of Port Huron has a demonstrated track record of promoting racial equity, inclusion and diversity in all aspects of City government and this commitment is most recently exemplified in the creation of an office for diversity and inclusion; and

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

WHEREAS, Racism and Social Inequities is a social system with multiple dimensions: that is internalized or interpersonal; systemic inequities that is institutional or structural, and is a system of structuring opportunity and assigning value based on the social interpretation of how one looks or social status; and

WHEREAS, Racism and Social Inequities unfairly disadvantages specific individuals and communities, and saps the strength of the whole society through the waste of human resources, and the City of Port Huron collective prosperity depends upon the equitable access to opportunity for every resident regardless of the color of their skin or social status; and

WHEREAS, Racism and Social Inequities causes persistent discrimination and disparate outcomes in many areas of life, including housing, education, employment and criminal justice; and emerging body of research demonstrates that racism itself is a social determinant of health; and

WHEREAS, the City of Port Huron's demographics clearly show the disproportionate challenges facing our community because of Racism and Social Inequities in the areas of healthcare, education and economic mobility; and

WHEREAS, more than 100 studies have linked Racism and Social Inequities to worse health outcomes as evident of the COVID-19 epidemic; and

WHEREAS, the Port Huron City Council representing our residents do hereby declare Racism and Social Inequities as a Public Health Crisis;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Port Huron City Council the following:

1. Assert that Racism and Social Inequities are a public health crisis affecting our entire country.
2. Work to progress as an equity and justice-oriented organization, with the Port Huron City Council and its staff leadership continuing to identify specific activities to further enhance diversity and to ensure antiracism principles across the City of Port Huron's leadership, staffing and contracting.
3. Promote equity through all policies approved by the Port Huron City Council and enhance


- educational efforts aimed at understanding, addressing and dismantling racism and how it affects the delivery of human and social services, economic development and public safety.
4. Continue to advocate locally and through the various organizations of associations for relevant policies that improve health in communities of color, and supports local, state, regional, and federal initiatives that advance efforts to dismantle systemic racism.
 5. Further work to solidify 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.
 6. Support community efforts to amplify issues of racism and engage actively and authentically with communities of color wherever they live.
 7. To always promote and support policies that prioritize the health of all people, especially people of color by mitigating exposure to adverse childhood experiences.
 8. Continue on-going racial equity training with the goal of reaching all agencies leadership and staff.
 9. Encourage racial equity training among all community partners, grantees, vendors and contractors.
 10. Identify clear goals and objectives, including periodic reports to the Port Huron City Council, to assess progress and capitalize on opportunities to further advance racial equity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Port Huron City Council supports all additional efforts in the City of Port Huron and the State of Michigan, and nationwide to address public health disparities due to Racism and Social Inequities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Port Huron City Council call upon the Governor and the Speaker of the Michigan House to join with us to declare Racism and Social Inequities as a public health crisis and to enact equity in all policies of the State of Michigan.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Lisa M. Beedon, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Anita R. Ashford, Councilmember
YES:	Repp, Archibald, Ashford, Beedon, Harris, Pemberton, Worden

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Port Huron City Council at the regular meeting of Monday, June 8, 2020.



 Cyndee M. Jonseck, MiPMC
 City Clerk