



Legislation Text

File #: 20-587

Version: 2

Agenda Date: 8/26/2020

Item #: 13a.

Resolution on Racial and Social Equity in South San Francisco, Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis

WHEREAS, recent deeply disturbing events, including the senseless killings of people of color across our country, have awakened Americans to this injustice and spurred a new level of determination to create a better society; and

WHEREAS, the City Council acknowledges that Black lives matter and we stand in solidarity with communities of color, and the hundreds of city residents who exercised their right to peacefully protest against racism and police brutality; and

WHEREAS, the City Council seeks to actively lead and/or join efforts to reverse the effects of the inequitable policies, processes, and practices of the past, and recognizes that it has a role to play in understanding and communicating the impacts that planning decisions have on low income families, communities of color, and other disadvantaged communities; and

WHEREAS, communities of color, working class residents, and people with disabilities are more likely to experience poor health outcomes as a consequence of health inequities and access to health care systems; and

WHEREAS, the City Council strives to build understanding and engage our diverse community in creating pathways to equality and justice for all; and

WHEREAS, members of the City Council believe in the values of equity, equal justice and equal opportunity, and are dedicated to diversity, inclusion, and social justice as they are core parts of who we stand for; and

WHEREAS, statements are important, but actions are critical. How we move forward will testify to the sincerity and commitment of our respect and love for others. Recent events nationwide present an opportunity for growth, by appreciating and embracing those in the Black community, all people of color, and all communities; and

WHEREAS, the City of South San Francisco is not immune to injustices including racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, and other forms of bias or discrimination; and

WHEREAS, throughout history, racism has manifested as discrimination and oppression directed toward specific populations, their communities, and succeeding generations resulting in trauma, terror, and long-term physical and mental health impairments.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and the City Council of South San Francisco declare the following:

1. We affirm that racism is a public health crisis affecting our entire city, county, state and nation, and results in disparities in health and mental wellness, education, employment, economic development, and criminal justice.
2. We are committed with those working toward a fair and just society, and with those calling for systemic change to

eliminate barriers that reduce opportunity and undermine City residents' shared values and ability to thrive.

3. We uphold our commitment to meaningfully advance justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion; and pledge to work toward ending racial and social injustice by strengthening partnerships with the community.
4. We continue to advocate for policies that improve health in communities of color, and support local, state, regional, and federal initiatives that advance efforts to dismantle systemic racism.

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