

RESOLUTION NO. 146-20

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING AFRICAN-AMERICAN
RACISM A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS.**

- WHEREAS:** Racism has adversely affected the lives of African-Americans for over 400 years, under slavery and Jim Crow, discriminatory laws and policies, and in the face of mass incarceration and disenfranchisement, during which time they were denied opportunities in all areas of their lives; and
- WHEREAS:** COVID-19 is shining a bright and sorrowful light on the health disparities in the African-American community; and
- WHEREAS:** Systemic racism exists on individual, institutional, and structural levels, all of which operate throughout time and across generations; and
- WHEREAS:** The negative consequences of pervasive systemic racism have caused disproportionately higher rates of chronic disease, infant and maternal mortality, homelessness, poor education, incarceration, police violence, and economic hardship for African-Americans; and
- WHEREAS:** Medina City Council has supported diversity in our community and seeks to foster equity and improve the quality of life for each Medina resident; and
- WHEREAS,** The Medina City Police Department is dedicated to fairness and equity in policing and building trust with all residents; and
- WHEREAS:** The City has provided diversity and inclusion training for city employees, including the Police Department, and has shared that training with the City Schools, but understands that ongoing anti-bias and sensitivity training must continue to occur; and
- WHEREAS:** Medina City Council recognizes that the privileges that many in our community experience keep them from fully understanding how racism affects all African-American people in their daily lives; and
- WHEREAS:** The City of Medina stands in solidarity with cities and counties and states across our country who agree that Racism is a Public Health Crisis that must be confronted by addressing the social, economic, and environmental inequities that have handicapped black Americans for generations; and
- WHEREAS:** Medina City Council recognizes that it has a responsibility to lead the community to address racism, to listen to those who are affected, to actively engage in eradicating racism, and to ensure that every effort is made to eliminate any kind

of preferential treatment for the majority that diminishes the lives of Black residents.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEDINA, OHIO:

SEC. 1: That we, the members of Medina City Council, do hereby declare that African-American Racism is a Public Health Crisis, and that we support equitable policies and commit our full attention to improving the quality of life and health of our minority residents.

SEC. 2: That the City of Medina will work with other agencies, organizations, and institutions in the community and the State of Ohio to promote racial equity and social justice in our city, to raise awareness of the challenges caused by racism, to seek remedies, and to report on those efforts to our residents.

SEC. 3: That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with the law.

SEC. 4: That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect at the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: August 24, 2020

SIGNED: John M. Coyne, III
President of Council

ATTEST: Kathy Patton
Clerk of Council

APPROVED: August 25, 2020

SIGNED: Dennis Hanwell
Mayor