

SALT LAKE CITY CORPORATION

Resolution

A JOINT RESOLUTION DECLARING RACISM A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

WHEREAS, *the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention declares that “Racism is a system—consisting of structures, policies, practices, and norms—that assigns value and determines opportunity based on the way people look or the color of their skin”; and*

WHEREAS, *racism is a serious public health threat because racism - both interpersonal and structural - is proven to have harmful impacts to the mental and physical health of communities of color; and*

WHEREAS, *racism is declared as a public health crisis that directly impacts Salt Lake City residents resulting in health disparities that are both measurable and preventable; and*

WHEREAS, *racism affects where one lives, learns, works, worships and plays, which creates inequities in access to a range of social and economic benefits—such as housing, education, wealth, and employment which are often referred to as social determinants of health; and racism is a key driver of the determinants of health, shaping access to resources such as education, housing, employment, and healthcare that creates opportunities for health; and*

WHEREAS, *outcomes from these structural inequities can be seen through increased exposure to environmental toxins, unmet housing needs, disparities in policing and the criminal justice system, inadequate private and public investment, decreased access to educational and employment opportunities and multitudes of health measures; and*

WHEREAS, *this nation and the states and municipalities within have been designed to systematically disadvantage underrepresented racial and ethnic groups thereby creating health disparities that have persisted even after the Civil Rights Movement following the abolition of slavery; and*

WHEREAS, *the COVID-19 pandemic has illustrated how pre-existing structural inequities created heavier burdens of disease, death, and social consequences onto communities of color in Utah; and*

WHEREAS, *the data from the Utah Department of Health reveal stark differences in health between persons of color and their white counterparts:*

- 1. Odds of infection were three times more likely in very high deprivation area such as Glendale and two times more likely in Rose Park, where there are high percentages of Latino and nonwhite residents.*
- 2. The Latino communities account for 14.2% of Utah’s population, but 40% of the state’s COVID-19 cases.*

SALT LAKE CITY CORPORATION

Resolution

3. *American Indian and Alaskan Native communities in Utah had a case fatality rate that is roughly three times higher than the state average.*
4. *Black persons in Utah are significantly less likely to be screened for colorectal cancer, but more likely to both contract and die from colorectal cancer.*
5. *Black and Asian babies born in Utah are more likely to have a low birth weight.*
6. *Pacific Islanders have twice the rate of infant mortality than the statewide average; and*

WHEREAS, *Salt Lake City believes we have a moral imperative to combat racism, discrimination, and inequities in all its manifestations; and*

WHEREAS, *leaders from Utah's healthcare organizations declared systemic racism a threat to the health of patients, families, and communities through economic and resource inequities which result in poor health outcomes; and*

WHEREAS, *Salt Lake City has recently moved forward to develop a city-wide equity plan with a goal to methodically review all City practices and policies and confront the systems that have resulted in generational injustice and health inequities; and*

WHEREAS, *Salt Lake City remains committed to the work that it will take now and into the future to dismantle our racist legacies so that all feel welcome and safe in Salt Lake City.*

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

That in our capacity as a local municipal authority we declare racism as a moral and public health crisis in our city, state, and nation and reaffirm our commitment to the principles of the Utah Compact on Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That we commit to look internally, externally, and encourage all who reside, work, and own businesses in our city to commit to the work necessary to dismantle racist legacies and equitably work to repair our communities. That we commit to seek out strategies and solutions to unfair institutions in our society, businesses, government, and culture to improve the health outcomes and the life of all persons of color of Salt Lake City. That as we continue our work going forward we will continue to be critical about the policies and ordinances we create to ensure they do not add to the compounding of inequities, and that they work to undo the damage done over many years.

SALT LAKE CITY CORPORATION

Resolution

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That Salt Lake City commits to utilize work with County Health officials and data partners to report and review public health data including:

- City health metrics (disaggregating the data),
- Current tasks to be done,
- Next steps to address poor outcomes,
- Make public health data available online,
- Increase transparency,
- Utilize City equity staff to work with County Health partners to address systemic barriers to health including racism.

Adopted this _____ day of July 2021 by the Salt Lake City Mayor and the City Council. This resolution was adopted by the Racial Equity in Policing Commission on the 2nd day of June, 2021 and by the Human Rights Commission on the 1st day of June, 2021.



Erin Mendenhall
Salt Lake City Mayor



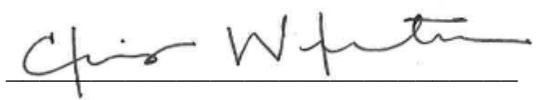
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Salt Lake City Council Member, District Seven



James Rogers, Vice Chair
Salt Lake City Council Member, District One



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Salt Lake City Council Member, District Two



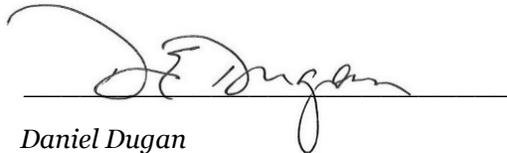
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Salt Lake City Council Member, District Three



Ana Valdemoros
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