[Declaring Anti-Black Racism as a Human Rights and Public Health Crisis]

Resolution declaring anti-Black racism as a human rights and public health crisis in San Francisco; requesting that City and County of San Francisco departments and agencies prioritize racial equity in all programs; and advocating for local, state, regional, and federal anti-racist policies that advance efforts to dismantle systemic racism.

WHEREAS, Racism is a system of structuring opportunity and assigning value based on the social interpretation of how one looks (which is what we call "race"), that unfairly disadvantages some individuals and communities, unfairly advantages other individuals and communities, and saps the strength of the whole society through the waste of human resources; and

WHEREAS, Anti-Black racism is hostility towards, opposition to, pathologizing of and racism towards Black people and culture, manifested through individual, internalized, interpersonal, institutional or systemic interactions, decisions, processes, and outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Public health studies have concluded that structural racism, not one's race, is the explanation for health inequities; and

WHEREAS, The American Public Health Association (APHA) lists racism as the driving force of the racial wealth gap and educational attainment gap; and

WHEREAS, It is the duty of public health practitioners to ensure equitable healthcare access and health outcomes across the City and County of San Francisco, including addressing the social determinants of health; and
WHEREAS, It is the duty of human rights advocates to ensure that the City and County of San Francisco reconcile its legacy of harm and trauma inflicted on marginalized communities; and

WHEREAS, Black San Franciscans have persistently had poorer health than their fellow residents in wide array of measures; and

WHEREAS, In 2014, a cross-divisional group convened and established the Black/African American Health Initiative (BAAHI) to focus on correcting these disparities; and

WHEREAS, In San Francisco, Black people have a lower life expectancy than persons of other races/ethnicities; and

WHEREAS, Black people have the highest mortality rate for 9 of the top 10 causes of death in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, Black San Francisco residents are the most likely to lack health insurance; and

WHEREAS, Age-adjusted rate of hospitalizations due to major depression among Black/African Americans is almost 5 times higher than among Asian & Pacific Islanders who have the lowest rate (23.79 vs 4.93 per 10,000 residents); high rates of hospitalizations among Black/African Americans likely result from inadequate access to medical care; and

WHEREAS, Many of the sexually transmitted infections, including chlamydia, gonorrhea and HIV, occur at higher rates in Black San Francisco residents in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, In San Francisco, significant maternal and infant death disparities persist and over the past 10 years, Black people represented only 4 out of 100 births, but experienced 5 out of 10 total maternal deaths, and 15 out of 100 infant deaths; and
WHEREAS, The pre-term birth rate for Black infants born in San Francisco is twice as high as the rate for white infants (13.8% vs 7.3%) and pre-term birth is associated with lower educational attainment and lower earning potential; and

WHEREAS, Research thoroughly documents that economic insecurity causes physical and psychological stress, which leads to preterm births and chronic health conditions, such as heart disease; and

WHEREAS, Predominantly Black U.S. countries are experiencing a three-fold higher COVID-19 infection rate and a six-fold higher death rate than predominantly white countries; and

WHEREAS, Black people are overrepresented in frontline jobs such as Muni operators, the postal service, and home aid industry, and have remained on their jobs as essential workers through the shelter in place order, leading to higher rates of exposure to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is killing Black Americans at alarming rates and in San Francisco, Black residents make up 5% of the population, but represent 5% of the City’s COVID-19 cases and 10% of COVID-19 deaths; and

WHEREAS, The alarming rates at which COVID-19 is killing Black people extends beyond comorbidities and can be attributed to decades of spatial segregation, inequitable access to testing and treatment, and withholding racial/ethnicity data from reports on virus outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Amongst the trans community, Black trans women face an epidemic of violence, disproportionately experiencing fatal violence, unemployment, poverty, and homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Black people are overrepresented in domestic violence cases reported across age groups in San Francisco; and
WHEREAS, In 2017, African American children, youth, cis and trans women represented the majority of reported human trafficking cases in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, Black people report experiencing nearly 60% of all hate violence in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Health Commission has recognized incarceration as a public health issue; and

WHEREAS, Black people are disproportionately represented throughout the criminal justice system in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, About 45% of all San Francisco Police Department use-of-force cases involved Black people in 2019; and

WHEREAS, Black drivers and pedestrians accounted for 25% of all San Francisco Police Department stops during the last three months of 2019 and roughly 40% of non-mandatory searches; and

WHEREAS, Black people make up 4/9% of San Francisco but 41% of those arrested, 43% of those booked into jail, and 38% of cases filed by prosecutors between 2008 and 2014; and

WHEREAS, Black suspects in San Francisco are less likely to have their cases dropped or dismissed than white suspects, and receive longer prison and jail sentences than others; and

WHEREAS, Black women constitute nearly half of all female arrests and experience arrest rates 13 times higher than women of other races; and

WHEREAS, Black people in San Francisco are 7.1 times more likely to be arrested than white people; and

WHEREAS, There is strong evidence establishing the connection between housing safety, security, and affordability to health outcomes as a social determinant of health; and
WHEREAS, Black households have a distinct disadvantage compared to white and Asian homebuyers, as they can only afford 5.3% of home sale listings in San Francisco; and
WHEREAS, Black people have the lowest homeownership rates in San Francisco at 23%; and
WHEREAS, Black people were systematically displaced by urban renewal in San Francisco in the 1960s and 1970s, which subsequently led to a persistent decline in the population; and
WHEREAS, Redevelopment intentionally targeted and disrupted Black neighborhoods and the Black economy in San Francisco; and
WHEREAS, Black people represent 37% of the city’s unhoused population, a number that accounts for 5% of all Black residents in the City; and
WHEREAS, Black residents comprise nearly 40% of all public housing residents; and
WHEREAS, Government-sanctioned racial discrimination in lending and the sale and renting of homes—from racial covenants to redlining to exclusionary zoning—has made housing a central feature of racial inequity in the city and the country; and
WHEREAS, San Francisco’s Black population has declined at nearly four times the rate of the Bay Area, overall; and
WHEREAS, Black renter and owner households in San Francisco are the most "severely cost burdened" by their housing costs, with about 25% and 20% spending over half of their income on rent and mortgage, respectively; and
WHEREAS, Black families in San Francisco have the lowest median household income of all groups ($30,000); and
WHEREAS, The racist legacy of policies like redlining, racial covenants, and the Social Security Act prevented Black families from building wealth, and keeps them in neighborhoods
with lower access to traditional banking resources and higher concentrations of predatory pay-
day loans; and

WHEREAS, Racist hiring, promotion, compensation and retention practices against
Black employees in San Francisco have been widely documented including within the City
and County of San Francisco system; and

WHEREAS, Despite the abundance of wealth in San Francisco, the racial wealth gap
and gentrification have contributed to the mass displacement of Black San Franciscans; and

WHEREAS, The Black population in San Francisco is the only racial group to
consistently decline in every census count since 1970; and

WHEREAS, The economic insecurity from the racial wealth gap in San Francisco
impacts educational attainment and, subsequently, the earning potential and generational
wealth building of Black families; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco ranks as the county with the worst academic outcomes for
Black students in California, with only 19% of Black students in the city passing the state’s
reading assessment in 2017; and

WHEREAS, Research shows that these poor educational outcomes are setting up
Black children in San Francisco for low earning jobs and subsequently limiting their ability to
build wealth; and

WHEREAS, Schools police and criminalize Black children, where they made up 39% of
all students arrested on San Francisco school campuses from 2010 to 2013, despite being
only 8% of San Francisco students; and

WHEREAS, On June 25, 2020, the Human Rights Commission, unanimously passed
this Resolution declaring anti-Black racism as a human rights and public health crisis in San
Francisco; and
WHEREAS, On June 30, 2020, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a Resolution declaring war on racism from the City and County of San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, On July 21, 2020, the San Francisco Health Commission, unanimously passed this Resolution declaring anti-Black racism as a human rights and public health crisis in San Francisco on their first reading; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes anti-Black racism as a human rights and public health crisis with particularly impacts on the civil rights, health and wellbeing of Black individuals, Black families and the Black community; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reaffirms the Resolution declaring anti-Black racism as a human rights and public health crisis in San Francisco passed unanimously by the Human Rights Commission; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests that City and County of San Francisco departments and agencies work with the Office of Racial Equity to disaggregate all data by race and prioritize racial equity in all programs; train employees to understand anti-Black racism and how it affects individual and population health; acknowledge their complicity in these racist outcomes; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco will work with, and center the Black community to dismantle institutionalized, anti-Black racism; commit to review all portions of codified ordinances with a racial equity lens; commit to conduct all human resources, vendor selection and grant management activities with a racial equity lens, including reviewing all internal policies and practices such as hiring, promotions, leadership appointments and funding; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors will advocate for and support local, state, regional, and federal anti-racist policies that advance efforts to dismantle systemic racism in order to improve the lives of Black people; require community partners and...
stakeholders in the education, economic development, employment, housing, and criminal justice and safety arenas to recognize anti-Black racism as a public health crisis and to activate the above items; secure adequate resources to successfully accomplish the above activities; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco will create an anti-Black racism program evaluation framework for all City departments and City grantees where the data must be produced at least every two years for the public as instructed by the legislation that created the Office of Racial Equity.
Resolution declaring anti-Black racism as a human rights and public health crisis in San Francisco; requesting that City and County of San Francisco departments and agencies prioritize racial equity in all programs; and advocating for local, state, regional, and federal anti-racist policies that advance efforts to dismantle systemic racism.

July 23, 2020 Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee - AMENDED, AN AMENDMENT OF THE WHOLE BEARING SAME TITLE

July 23, 2020 Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee - RECOMMENDED AS AMENDED

August 11, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 8/11/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

London N. Breed
Mayor

08/21/2020

Date Approved
I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board

08/21/2020  
Date

File No.  
200711