

HUMAN RELATIONS INITIATIVE

ADVOCACY INFORMATION - LAWMAKING/LEGISLATIVE POLICY ANALYSIS CITY OF SAN ANTONIO: A RESOLUTION DECLARING RACISM A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS AND TO ESTABLISH STONGER EFFORTS TO PROMOTE RACIAL EQUITY IN SAN ANTONIO

Human Relations Initiative, Inc. is a non-partisan organization which advocates for cultural social transformation by advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion through awareness, education, and dialogue (mission statement).

A component of the portfolio of services is **Advocacy Work**. Therefore, we respectfully share the following information as a resource.

LANGUAGE (EXCERPTS): *WHEREAS, the City of San Antonio has made a commitment to advancing racial equity in government with the formation of the Office of Equity in August 2017^A, which has since developed the Equity Indicators Report^B, the Budget Equity Tool^C, an internal Citywide Equity Committee and numerous Department Equity Assessments designed to ensure racial equity in the delivery of City services; WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association (APHA)^D has declared racism an ongoing public health crisis that needs our attention now; and institutions including the American Medical Association^E, American Association of Pediatrics^F and American College of Emergency Physicians^G have also recognized racism as an urgent threat to public health; WHEREAS, the World Health Organization^H defines “public health” as “the art and science of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organized efforts of society,” and public health activities range from researching disease and injury prevention to educating people about health, and the field of public health ultimately works to create the conditions in which people can be healthy; WHEREAS, the non-partisan National Partnership for Women and Families^I and American Public Health Association have found that in the United States, health and racism are inextricably linked, creating a harmful impact on individuals and communities of color and their social determinants of health, including unequal access to quality education, employment, livable wages, nutritious food, access to healthcare, stable and affordable housing, and safe and sustainable communities; WHEREAS, The American College of Physicians^J has found that Black/African Americans in particular are at risk of being subjected to discrimination and violence against them because of their race, endangering them and even costing them their lives; WHEREAS, Black/African Americans and people of color in San Antonio experience worse outcomes in health, education, employment, housing, and across many other metrics, according to the City of San Antonio’s Office of Equity’s 2019 Racial Equity Indicator Report^K;*

SOURCES

A - <https://www.sanantonio.gov/Equity>

B, K- <https://www.sanantonio.gov/Portals/0/Files/Equity/IndicatorReport.pdf>

C - <https://www.sanantonio.gov/Portals/0/Files/Equity/BudgetEquityTool.pdf?ver=2020-04-13-182339-083>

D - <https://www.apha.org/topics-and-issues/health-equity/racism-and-health>

E - <https://www.ama-assn.org/about/leadership/police-brutality-must-stop>

F - <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/144/2/e20191765>

G - <https://www.emergencyphysicians.org/press-releases/2020/5-30-20-acep-statement-on-structural-racism-and-public-health>

H - <https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/Health-systems/public-health-services/public-health-services>

I - <https://www.nationalpartnership.org/about-us/racial-equity/>

J - https://www.acponline.org/system/files/documents/advocacy/current_policy_papers/assets/racial_disparities.pdf

CONCLUSION: Human Relations Initiative, Inc. has identified, reviewed, and researched all entities/sources cited in the resolution and has confirmed all to be factual.

MISSION STATEMENT

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