

RESOLUTION 2022-___-CM
A RESOLUTION DECLARING
RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS
IN TIPPECANOE COUNTY, INDIANA

WHEREAS, the Social Determinants of Health, defined as the social and material factors that influence health, including employment, housing, education, health care, public safety, and food access are known to impact life-long health outcomes beginning even before birth;

WHEREAS, health equity is defined as all residents having the opportunity to attain their highest level of health;

WHEREAS, inequalities are created when barriers prevent individuals and communities from accessing these conditions and reaching their full potential;

WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association finds racism to be a barrier to health equity and has named racism a driving force of how these social determinants of health are distributed;

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics has declared that racism is a barrier to wellness that has a profound impact on the health status of children, adolescents, emerging adults, and their families and that the continued negative impact of racism on health and well-being through implicit and explicit biases, institutional structures, and interpersonal relationships is clear;

WHEREAS, The United States Office of Disease Prevention recognizes that racial discrimination negatively impacts health outcomes;

WHEREAS, the American College of Physicians has found that 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, the non-partisan National Partnership for Women and Families has found that in the United States, health and racism are inextricably linked, creating a harmful impact on individuals and communities of color, including unequal access to quality education, employment, livable wages healthy food, stable and affordable housing, and safe and sustainable communities;

WHEREAS, the American Psychological Association, the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Family Physicians have declared hate crimes a public health concern;

WHEREAS, the U.S. National Institutes of Health reports that multiple studies suggest that experiences of racism or discrimination raise the risk of emotional and physical health problems, including depression, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, and even death;

WHEREAS, according to the YWCA of Greater Lafayette, in Tippecanoe County, 11.5% of Black and 19% of Latinx residents do not have health insurance coverage, as compared to 9.3% of White residents;

WHEREAS, according to the YWCA of Greater Lafayette, in Tippecanoe County, the median infant mortality rate is 14.6 per 1,000 Black, Multiracial and Latinx births compared to 6.1% White births;

WHEREAS, according to the YWCA of Greater Lafayette, in Tippecanoe County, the average median household income is \$28,191 for Black households compared to \$56,684 for non-Latinx White households;

WHEREAS, according to the YWCA of Greater Lafayette, In Tippecanoe County, 40.4% of Black and 19.5% of Latinx residents live in poverty compared to 15.6% of White residents;

WHEREAS, according to the YWCA of Greater Lafayette, 9.4% of Latinx and 11.07% of Black residents 25 or older have a bachelor's degree or higher, as compared to 22.6% of white residents;

WHEREAS, according to the YWCA of Greater Lafayette, among people employed full-time in Tippecanoe County the employment rate for White citizens is 63.9% compared to the 44.3% for Asian American and Pacific Islander citizens;

WHEREAS, the negative repercussions of historical racism, including but not limited to discriminatory federal housing policies and lending practices of the 20th century continue to negatively impact:

- Access to nutritious food in Black neighborhoods, which contributes to higher rates of Type II Diabetes, Hypertension, Herat Disease, and Obesity;
- Economic security for Black residents, who are more likely to live in neighborhoods with less access to traditional banking institutions and high numbers of payday lenders;
- Educational achievement for Black residents, who are more likely to live in areas with underperforming school systems;
- Rates of environmentally-based health problems for Black residents such as lead poisoning and asthma due to living in neighborhoods with older buildings and greater proximity to population-causing industries, resulting in rates of chronic diseases, including asthma, which are significantly higher in communities of color; and
- Rates of infant and maternal mortality for Black mothers and children, due to living in geographical areas with less access to healthcare, and resulting in mortality rates more than twice that for White infants.

WHEREAS, racism operates on systemic, institutional, and interpersonal levels, all of which operate throughout time and across generations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BET IT RESOLVED, by Board of Commissioners of Tippecanoe County, Indiana, as follows:

Section 1. That the Board declares racism to be a public health crisis in Tippecanoe County, Indiana that affects all members of our community and deserves action from all levels of government and civil society.

Section 2. That the County commits to frank and open discussions on issues of race, racial disparities, and inequalities.

Section 3. That the County and its Departments will address racial inequalities by investing, as much as possible, in disadvantaged neighborhoods and those neighborhoods whose residents suffer most from racial disparities.

Section 4. That the County will review current policies and procedures for the express purpose of eradicating implicit and explicit racial bias.

Section 5. That the County should immediately access all available tools to eliminate disparities based on race, place, or identity across key indicators of success, including health, education, criminal justice, the environment, employment and the economy.

Section 6. The County will create a plan to collect data regarding racial disparities in department staffing, contracting, and all additional extensions of the County government with the purpose of incorporating racial equity into the analysis of governmental action.

Section 7. That the County will collaborate with additional key stakeholders within the community to assist them in incorporating the above-listed practices into their businesses.

THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT UPON PASSAGE.

Duly adopted this ___ day of _____, 2022.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
TIPPECANOE COUNTY

David S. Byers, President

Tracy A. Brown, Vice-President

Thomas P. Murtaugh, Member

ATTEST:

Robert Plantenga, Auditor of
Tippecanoe County