

RESOLUTION

Item #: **RE: Declaration that Racism is a Public Health Crisis in New Britain**

To Her Honor, the Mayor, and the Common Council of the City of New Britain:
the undersigned beg leave to recommend the adoption of the following:

WHEREAS, racism is a social system with multiple dimensions: individual racism that is interpersonal and/or internalized or systemic racism that is institutional or structural, and is a system of structuring opportunity and assigning value based on the social interpretation of how one looks; and

WHEREAS, race is a social construct with no biological basis; and

WHEREAS, racism unfairly disadvantages specific individuals and communities, while unfairly giving advantages to other individuals and communities, and saps the strength of the whole society through the waste of human resources; and

WHEREAS, racism is a root cause of poverty and constricts economic mobility; and

WHEREAS, racism causes persistent discrimination and disparate outcomes in many areas of life, including housing, education, employment, and criminal justice, and is itself a social determinant of health; and

WHEREAS, racism and segregation have exacerbated a health divide resulting in people of color in Connecticut bearing a disproportionate burden of illness and mortality including COVID-19 infection and death, heart disease, diabetes, and infant mortality; and

WHEREAS, Black, Native American, Asian and Latino residents are more likely to experience poor health outcomes as a consequence of inequities in economic stability, education, physical environment, food, and access to health care and these inequities are, themselves, a result of racism; and

WHEREAS, more than 100 studies have linked racism to worse health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the collective prosperity and wellbeing of New Britain depends upon equitable access to opportunity for every resident regardless of the color of their skin; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of New Britain asserts that racism is a public health crisis affecting our city and all of Connecticut; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of New Britain will work to progress as an equity and justice-oriented organization, by continuing to identify specific activities to enhance diversity and to ensure antiracism principles across our leadership, staffing and contracting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of New Britain will promote equity through all policies approved by the Common Council of New Britain and enhance educational efforts aimed at understanding, addressing and dismantling racism and how it affects the delivery of human and social services, economic development and public safety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of New Britain will improve the quality of the data our city collects and analyzes by using qualitative and quantitative data to assess inequities in impact and to enable continuously improvement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of New Britain will continue to advocate locally for relevant policies that improve health in communities of color, and support local, state, regional, and federal initiatives that advance efforts to dismantle systemic racism; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of New Britain will also work to solidify alliances and partnerships with other organizations that are confronting racism and encourage other local, state, regional, and national entities to recognize racism as a public health crisis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of New Britain will support community efforts to amplify issues of racism and engage actively and authentically with communities of color wherever they live; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of New Britain will identify clear goals and objectives, including periodic reports to the Common Council, to assess progress and capitalize on opportunities to further advance racial equity.

Ald. Francisco Santiago

Ald. Colin Osborn

Ald. Emmanuel Sanchez

Ald. Chris Anderson

Ald. Aram Ayalon

Ald. Richard Reyes

Ald. Iris Sanchez

Ald. Kristian Rosado

Ald. Daniel Salerno

Ald. Sharon Beloin-Saavedra

Ald. Howard Dyson

Ald. Kris Rutkowski

Ald. Michael Thompson

Ald. Wilfredo Pabon