

# RECORD OF RESOLUTIONS

CITY OF UPPER ARLINGTON

STATE OF OHIO

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## RESOLUTION NO. 7-2020

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### CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF UPPER ARLINGTON DECLARES RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

**WHEREAS,** the City of Upper Arlington inspires to maintain and enhance an environment in which all individuals are welcome and included. The City has a proud tradition of acknowledging that we can always do better and be better as individuals and as a community. The City also understands that improvement begins by listening and learning, and then using that knowledge to enhance and enrich ourselves and the community; and

**WHEREAS,** racism is a threat to the safety, security, health and quality of life of African Americans and other minority residents of our country, state and community; and

**WHEREAS,** the Pediatric Infectious Disease Society recently stated, "structural racism is more harmful to the health and well-being of children than infectious disease including COVID-19;" and

**WHEREAS,** the recent deaths of George Floyd and other members of the African American and minority communities remain in the public consciousness as a reminder that racism poses a threat to our city, our state and our nation; and

**WHEREAS,** government legislation and actions at all levels have greatly contributed to racial inequalities in many areas of life; and

**WHEREAS,** we can all commit to learning more about racism and its destructive impact and that daily tasks such as driving a car, walking in neighborhoods or shopping at a store come with risks not experienced by all citizens. With enhanced knowledge we can become an even more inclusive and welcoming community and a model for others; and

**WHEREAS,** recent events have highlighted racism, bigotry and discrimination against African American people, it is incumbent upon members of this Council to stand with those demanding accountability and to make our community fair and equitable, and to recognize that efforts to impede any group on the basis of race, national origin, age, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity from exercising their rights is a direct threat to the rights of all that we hold dear as citizens of the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** Justice Thurgood Marshall articulated this belief very clearly, "I wish I could say that racism and prejudice were only distant memories. We must dissent from the indifference. We must dissent from the apathy. We must dissent

from the fear, the hatred and the mistrust. We must dissent because America can do better, because America has no choice but to do better.”

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Upper Arlington, Ohio:

**SECTION 1.** The members of the Council of the City of Upper Arlington, Ohio, do hereby declare racism as a public health crisis that is affecting our community, state and our nation.

**SECTION 2.** Over the past several years, the City has explored how to become a more welcoming and inclusive community and to continue these efforts, effective immediately, members of Council and Staff commit their attention to learning more about systemic racism and its impact in order to identify and address inequities to all minorities;

1. Strengthen efforts to build trust between the Upper Arlington Police Division and African American and other minority and underrepresented groups;
2. Direct the City Manager to produce an annual Diversity, Equity and Inclusion report that details City practices to encourage diversity, equity and inclusion in the following public areas:
  - a. Hiring
  - b. Contracting
  - c. Law Enforcement Actions.

**SECTION 3.** Implement the Community Relations Committee, appointing seven residents that will work closely with community organizations, fellow residents, and the City to advance Upper Arlington as a community that is welcoming, cohesive and inclusive to all.

**SECTION 4.** That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.