

RESOLUTION 2020 – 57 (*Amended*)

INTRODUCED BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING SYSTEMIC RACISM A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS**

**WHEREAS**, we acknowledge Black Lives Matter and racism has adversely affected the lives of African-Americans for over 400 years, under slavery and Jim Crow, discriminatory laws and policies, and in the face of mass incarceration and disenfranchisement, during which time they were denied opportunities in all areas of their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, Covid-19 is shining a bright and sorrowful light on the health disparities in the African American community; and

**WHEREAS**, systemic racism exists on individual, institutional, and structural levels, all of which operate throughout time and across generations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Boston Public Health Commission states racism impacts social determinants of health, including social capital, education, transportation, employment, food access, health behaviors, socioeconomic status, environmental exposure, access to health services, housing and public safety. Further, pervasive systemic racism has caused disproportionately higher rates of chronic disease, infant and maternal mortality, homelessness, poor education, incarceration, police violence, and economic hardship for African Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, the negative repercussions of historical racism, including but not limited to discriminatory lending practices of the 20<sup>th</sup> century known as “redlining”, impact current outcomes regarding access to nutritious food, economic security, educational achievement, rates of lead poisoning, and infant mortality; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Oakwood Council has supported diversity in our community and seeks to foster equity and improve the quality of life for each village resident; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Oakwood Police Department is dedicated to fairness and equity in policing and building trust with all residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Police department has proactively provided diversity and inclusion training for its members but understands that ongoing anti-bias and sensitivity training must occur and these efforts will be extended to all departments of the Village; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Oakwood recognizes the privileges many experience, keep them from fully understanding how racism affects all African American people in their daily lives; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Oakwood stands in solidarity with municipalities, counties and states across our country who agree Racism is a Public Health Crisis which must be confronted by addressing the social, economic, and environmental inequities which have handicapped black Americans for generations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Oakwood Council recognizes it has a responsibility to lead the community, to address racism, to listen to those who are affected, to actively engage in eradicating racism, and to ensure every effort is made to eliminate any kind of preferential treatment for the majority that diminishes the lives of Black residents; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** by the Village of Oakwood, County of Cuyahoga, and State of Ohio, that:

**SECTION 1.** We, the members of the Village of Oakwood Council, do hereby declare Racism is a Public Health Crisis, and we support equitable policies and commit our full attention to improving the quality of life and health of our minority residents; and

**SECTION 2.** The Village of Oakwood will work with other agencies, organizations, and institutions in the community and the State of Ohio to promote racial equity and social justice in our village, to raise awareness of the challenges caused by racism, to seek remedies, and to report on those efforts to our residents; and

**SECTION 3.** This resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace, health, safety, and welfare.

**SECTION 4.** The Clerk is hereby authorized to send a copy of this resolution to Senator Rob Portman, Senator Sherrod Brown, and Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge.

**SECTION 5.** This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption by this Council and approved by the Mayor, otherwise from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Johnnie Warren, President of Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Debra L. Hladky, Clerk of Council

Presented to the  
Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, Gary V. Gottschalk

I, Debra L. Hladky, Clerk of Council of the Village of Oakwood, County of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 2020-57 was duly and regularly passed by this Council at the meeting held on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Debra L. Hladky, Clerk of Council

**POSTING CERTIFICATE**

I, Debra L. Hladky, Clerk of Council of the Village of Oakwood, County of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, do hereby certify that Resolution No. 2020-57 was duly posted on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020, and will remain posted for a period of fifteen (15) days thereafter in the Council Chambers and in not less than five (5) of the most public places in the municipality as determined by the Council of the said Village.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Debra L. Hladky, Clerk of Council

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_