



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MEMORANDUM

12/1/2022

To: Robin Stieler, Clerk of the Board

From: Chairman Doug Chaffee, Fourth District
Supervisor Andrew Do, First District

Subject: Addition of Supplemental item to the December 6, 2022 Board of Supervisors Meeting

Doug Chaffee

C. Do for A.D.

S26D

Please add the attached resolution Declaring Racism and Inequity as a Public Health Crisis as a supplemental agenda item to the December 6th Board of Supervisor meeting agenda.

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF ORANGE DECLARING RACISM AND INEQUITY AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

WHEREAS, the County is dedicated to improving health and wellness, eliminating health disparities and achieving health equity for all residents; and

WHEREAS, national, state, and local COVID-19 data revealed that racial and social inequities have exacerbated during the pandemic by disproportionately impacting Black, Indigenous, Latino, Asian American and Pacific Islanders and other communities of color, which further reflects structural and systemic racial inequities and their impacts on the health and well-being of individuals and communities; and

WHEREAS, systemic racism causes persistent discriminatory policies in housing, education, employment, transportation, and criminal justice; and

WHEREAS, the County is deeply alarmed by the recent racially motivated attacks and violence on Black, Indigenous, Latino, Asian American and Pacific Islanders and other communities; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the American Public Health Association (APHA) have declared that racism constitutes a significant barrier to achieving health equity; and

WHEREAS, communities of color are often disproportionately impacted by the negative effects of adverse social determinants of health, such as increased exposure to lead, poor air quality, lack of safe places to walk, bike or run, and unequal access to safe, stable housing; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies have linked racism to negative health outcomes, including research that the cumulative experience of racism throughout ones' lifetime can lead to chronic mental health and physical health problems, including depression, anxiety, cardiovascular disease, stroke, diabetes, premature birth, hypertension, and even death; and

WHEREAS, racism can manifest in different ways ranging from violent attacks, to implicit bias, to differential access to resources and opportunities; and

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

WHEREAS, racism is among the root causes of adverse childhood experiences (ACES), and Black, Indigenous, Latino, Asian American and Pacific Islanders, and other communities of color are disproportionately impacted by ACEs due to chronic stress, trauma, and lack of access to support and resources, which has a profound and lasting impact on children, adolescents, and their families; and

WHEREAS, systemic racism and the resulting inequities threaten the health and well-being of Black, Indigenous, Latino, Asian American and Pacific Islanders, and other communities of color; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Orange County Board of Supervisors

A) Declares that racism, with its resultant social and health inequities, is a public health crisis affecting our entire society; and

B) Work to promote an inclusive, well-informed, and racial equity and justice-oriented governmental organization that is conscious of injustice and unfairness through robust trainings and continuing education to expand the understanding of how racial discrimination affects individuals and communities most impacted by inequities; and

C) Review and assess County of Orange and Agency/department policies, procedures and practices to ensure that racial and health equity are core elements of Orange County's work; and

D) Support equity, diversity, and inclusion as a core component to the delivery of health and human services for underserved populations, including appropriate allocation of resources and personnel training; and

E) Enhance public education and messaging efforts to increase understanding and awareness of the existence of systemic inequities from a health and human service perspective, with special attention given to the experiences of communities of color; and

F) Collaborate with other organizations that are confronting racism and encourage health and racial equity training among all community partners, grantees, vendors and contractors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board of Supervisors will work with all County Departments and other community partners to assess and apply an equity lens to internal and external policies and practices and adopt preventive measures to fight systemic racism and implicit bias to further health, wellness and equity in all aspects of community life.