

1 THE CITY OF CRANSTON  
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4 **RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL**  
5 **DECLARING RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE**  
6

7 *No.*  
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*Michael J Farina, Council President*

12 *Resolved, that*  
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14 **WHEREAS**; racism is a threat to public health and safety, and is a paramount social determinant  
15 of health, shaping access to the resources that create opportunities for health, including public  
16 safety, housing, education and employment, and is a persistent barrier to health equity for all  
17 Cranstonians;

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19 **WHEREAS**; in addition to having independent influence on the social determinants of health,  
20 racism in and of itself has been proven to have broad-reaching and direct negative impacts on  
21 individual health outcomes;

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23 **WHEREAS**; the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed, reaffirmed, and cast in sharp relief the  
24 emergency nature of the pre-existing inequities caused by systemic racism. For example,  
25 statewide, in cases where race and ethnicity is known, the rate of reported COVID-19 cases for  
26 African-Americans is 12% when African-Americans make up only 6.5% of our population. The  
27 rate of reported COVID-19 cases for Latinos is 46%, when Latinos make up only 13.2% of our  
28 population;

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30 **WHEREAS**; racial justice is the creation and proactive reinforcement of policies, practices,  
31 attitudes and actions that produce equitable power, access, opportunity, treatment, and outcomes  
32 for all people regardless of race;

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34 **WHEREAS**; all agencies of the City of Cranston must recommit to readdressing the impact that  
35 racism has on the lives of all of our neighbors and how it impacts the overall health of our City;

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37 **WHEREAS**; all Cranston residents are welcomed to join in working toward a city where all  
38 residents live fulfilling lives free of racism, poverty, violence, and other system of oppression;

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40 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Cranston City Council hereby declare that  
41 racism constitutes a public health issue in the City of Cranston;  
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43 ***THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT*** the Cranston City Council is committed  
44 to the elimination of racial disparities and all systems of racism; to prioritize racial equity in our  
45 decision making processes; to acknowledge that communities of color have borne the burdens of  
46 inequitable social, environmental, and economic policy practices and investments; to understand  
47 the legacy of these inequitable policies; and to recognize that racial equity is realized when and  
48 only when race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes.

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51 Sponsored by Councilmember Donegan

52 Co-sponsored by Councilmember Germain.