

RESOLUTION NO. 27-2020
(As Amended)

Recognizing the Impacts of Racism, Condemning
Racism in All Forms, and Committing to Promote
Racial Equity.

WHEREAS, the death of George Floyd under the knee of a Minneapolis police officer, made vivid to all through the unflinching witness of video, and the resulting protests in central Ohio and around the world have brought to many of us a new and painful awareness and a renewed focus of how racism impacts American society and institutions, including law enforcement's interactions with persons of color; and,

WHEREAS, while the problems and pains of racism are national and global in scope, achieving racial justice requires that we act at the municipal, organizational, neighborhood, and personal levels; and,

WHEREAS, City Council affirms the dedicated service provided by the men and women in the Worthington Division of Police, appreciates their positive interactions with the peaceful protesters on the Village Green, while recognizing the need for accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement; and,

WHEREAS, the Worthington Division of Police has provided and will continue to provide its officers with training in diversity awareness, ethics, social and emotional intelligence, crisis intervention, bias awareness, use of force, and de-escalation techniques and promoting the best practices to protect civil and human rights; and,

WHEREAS, the Worthington Division of Police has adopted use of force policies consistent with federal and state law and has been certified by the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board; and,

WHEREAS, City Manager Matt Greeson and Police Chief Robert Ware recently issued a message to the Worthington community acknowledging that racial injustice, inequality and bias remain present and all too real for many in society, and committing to help lead discussions to encourage a stronger, more respectful and more welcoming community for people of all backgrounds; and,

WHEREAS, last year City Council adopted a Non-Discrimination ordinance recommended by the Community Relations Commission to prohibit discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations based on race and other protected characteristics to promote tolerance, respect, and inclusion in Worthington; and,

WHEREAS, City Council desires to express its support and encouragement of the dialogue that is occurring among all persons and institutions and to commit to purposeful efforts that will help us realize our highest ideals of Worthington as a community of inclusion and equal treatment for all residents, businesses, employees, and visitors; and,

RESOLUTION NO. 27-2020
(As Amended)

WHEREAS, racism acts on systemic, institutional and interpersonal levels, all of which operate throughout time and across generations and negatively affects members of our society both on a local level and nationwide and deserves action from all levels of government and civil society; and,

WHEREAS, racism takes on multiple forms, including but not limited to: individual racism, whereby an individual prejudices or discriminates against another based on race; institutional racism, where policies, practices and procedures are established that serve one population better than another, even if unintentional, because of race; and structural racism, which is the history and current reality of institutional racism across all institutions, combining to create a society that negatively impacts specific communities, due to race; and,

WHEREAS, the manifestations of historic racism are many –the threat of physical violence, voter suppression, underfunded schools, the discriminatory lending practices of the 20th century known as “redlining”, limited available housing and transportation options, restricted employment opportunities, exclusion from a range of societies, clubs, and other means of social advancement, combined with daily degradations and distractions – and still impacts current outcomes regarding economic security, educational achievement, infant mortality, access to nutritious food, and rates of lead poisoning; and,

WHEREAS, racism causes disproportionately higher rates of homelessness, incarceration, and economic hardships for persons of color throughout our country; and,

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2020 the Columbus Board of Health, which provides public health services to Worthington, adopted a resolution recognizing that racism impacts the health of a large proportion of the population and determined steps need to be taken address this public health crisis; and,

WHEREAS, the Columbus Board of Health has defined racial equity by stating that racial equity will exist when race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes and the outcomes for all groups are improved;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED by the Council of the Municipality of Worthington, County of Franklin, State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. That City Council recognizes the impacts of racism and is committed to promoting racial equity in our government and community.

SECTION 2. That City Council condemns racism in all forms.

SECTION 3. That City Council affirms the constitutional rights of the citizens to peacefully assemble and protest against injustice.

RESOLUTION NO. 27-2020
(As Amended)

SECTION 4. That the City of Worthington will undertake a review of relevant organizational and departmental policies and practices to increase public awareness, foster diversity and inclusion, and make improvements where needed, and will report findings, and needed actions and changes to City Council and the community.

SECTION 5. That City Council will continue to support the Worthington Division of Police with the necessary training and funding to protect the citizens of Worthington and provide for continuous improvement, transparency, and oversight.

SECTION 6. That City Council will continue to support the Community Relations Commission in promoting opportunities to foster understanding, positive relationships, and a strong sense of community among people of diverse educational, racial, ethnic, cultural, and economic backgrounds.

SECTION 7. That City Council will participate in community outreach and engage in personal and public dialogue towards a better understanding of the impacts of racism and develop an action plan for potential areas for improvement in the community and our government.

SECTION 8. That City Council supports the resolution on racism adopted by the Columbus Board of Health.

SECTION 9. That City Council encourages the entire Central Ohio community to work together to raise awareness, promote racial equity, and eradicate racism and will actively participate in regional efforts to achieve these goals.

SECTION 10. That the Clerk be and hereby is instructed to record this Resolution in the appropriate record book upon its adoption.

Adopted June 15, 2020



President of Council

Attest



Clerk of Council

