


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Cedric McCray, Acting Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Office of Equity and Civil Rights 7 E. Redwood, 9 th Floor, (410) 396-5735		
	SUBJECT	City Council Resolution 20-0218R - Recognizing Systemic Racism as a Public Health Crisis For the purpose of recognizing systemic racism		

DATE:

TO

The Honorable President and
 Members of the City Council
 City Hall, Room 400

November 17, 2020

The Office of Equity and Civil Rights (OECR) has reviewed City Council Resolution 20-0218R and shares the sponsor’s commitment. The OECR is pleased to have an opportunity to add its support to City Council Bill #20-0218R recognizing racism as a Public Health Crisis. We join the American Public Health Association (APHA) and our colleagues in the public and private sector in encouraging the Baltimore City Council to pass this legislation.

Furthermore, we encourage the Mayor and City Council to provide the necessary resources to engage the Baltimore City Health Department, and other agencies of city government gathering the needed data, and information to create action steps to address systemic, institutional, subconscious, overt, and all other forms of racism.

The Office of Equity and Civil Rights through its monthly Community dialogue series “Can We Talk?” annual Civil Rights Week and Fair Housing Film Festival activities has engaged its community partners, and the community at large in discussing this issue on several occasions since its inception in 2018.

It is our intention to continue to work with the public and private sector to use (via our available outreach platforms) the public model to address the issue of racism, and thereby improve the quality of life, and eliminate various forms of racism that contribute to inequity, poverty, and injustice in the city of Baltimore. To that end we support with the American Public Health Association position below:

— With the nation’s history of racism permeating almost every institution and system, urges Congress to pass and fund new and existing anti-racism legislation, such as the Anti-Racism in Public Health Act, which would create a National Center of Anti-Racism at CDC. Calls on policymakers to support public health research investments that examine the health impacts of institutional racism and the effects of structural interventions, and establish collaboratives among federal, state and local governmental agencies to create evidence-based recommendations. Encourages federal, state and local governments to increase data collection on racial inequities and mandate the use of measures of racism, especially within police violence, law enforcement and criminal justice system data.

The American Public Health Association

In conclusion, the Office of Equity and Civil Rights (OECR) remains committed to fairness and equity for residents of the City of Baltimore and in support of Council Resolution 20-0218R.

Cc: Brandon Scott, City Council President
Nina Themelis