

RESOLUTION NO. 20-11

St. Clair County Declaration against any form of racism and in favor of social equity and justice.

Minutes of a regular meeting of the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners, held on the 16th day of July, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

Commissioner GRATOPP moved passage of the following resolution.

WHEREAS, St. Clair County promotes racial equity, inclusion and diversity as demonstrated by its policies and procedures and by the membership of Jeffrey Bohm, Chairman of the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners, on the diversity initiative of St. Clair County which is designed to promote diversity and eliminate discrimination in St. Clair County; and

WHEREAS, St. Clair County supports the mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to secure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons; and

WHEREAS, St. Clair County encourages all citizens to support political leaders that advocate against racism and social inequities; and

WHEREAS, race and social status is a social construct with no biological basis; and

WHEREAS, Racism and Social Inequities unfairly and illegally disadvantage specific individuals and communities and saps the strength of society through a waste of human resources; and

WHEREAS, the prosperity of St. Clair County and all residents of St. Clair County depends on the equitable access to opportunity for all residents regardless of the color of their skin or social status; and

WHEREAS, Racism and Social Inequities cause persistent discrimination and disparate outcomes in many areas of life, including housing, education, employment and criminal justice; and

WHEREAS, research demonstrates that Racism itself is a social detriment to the health and wellbeing of minority citizens; and

WHEREAS, multiple studies have linked Racism and Social Inequities to poor health outcomes as evidenced by the COVID-19 epidemic; and

WHEREAS, St. Clair County in representing the residents of the County hereby declares Racism and Social Inequities as a Public Health Crisis;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners proclaims and shall:

1. Work to progress as an equity and justice-oriented organization with its staff and leadership continuing to identify specific activities to further enhance diversity and ensure antiracism principles across St. Clair County in leadership, staffing and contracting
2. Promote equity through its policies as established by the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners and will enhance educational efforts aimed at understanding, addressing and dismantling racism and how racism affects the delivery of human and social services, economic development and public safety.
3. Continue to advocate throughout the County for relevant policies that improve health in communities of color, and supports local, state, regional and federal initiatives that advance efforts to dismantle systemic racism.
4. Further work to solidify alliances and partnerships with organizations that confront racism and encourage other local, state, regional and national entities to recognize racism as a public health crisis.
5. Support community efforts to publicize issues of racism and engage actively with communities of color wherever they live.
6. Promote and support policies that prioritize the health of ALL people by mitigating exposure to adverse childhood experiences.
7. Plan and implement racial equity training with the goal of reaching all agencies, leadership and staff.

8. Encourage racial equity training among community partners, grantees, vendors and contractors.
9. Identify clear goals and objectives to assess progress and capitalize on opportunities to further advance racial equity in St. Clair County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners supports all additional efforts in St. Clair County, the State of Michigan and nationwide to address public health disparities due to Racism and Social Inequities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that St. Clair County calls upon the Governor of the State of Michigan, the Senate Majority Leader and the Speaker of the Michigan House to join with St. Clair County to declare Racism and Social Inequities as a public health crisis and to enact equity in all policies of the State of Michigan.

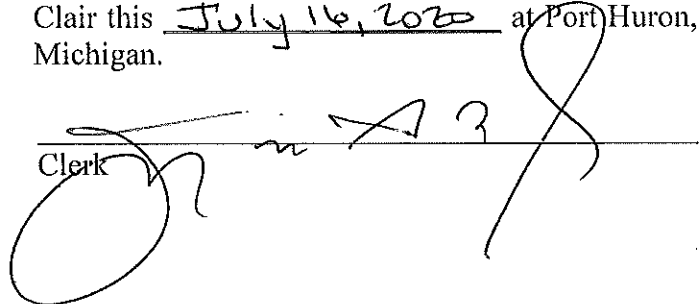
STATE OF MICHIGAN)

County of St. Clair)

I, Jay DeBoyer, Clerk of the County of St. Clair and of the County Board of Commissioners, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the resolution adopted by the Board at its regular meeting on July 16, 2020.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the County of St. Clair this July 16, 2020 at Port Huron, Michigan.

Clerk

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay DeBoyer", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and includes a large loop at the end.