

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 245

Approved July 22, 2020

WHEREAS, Providence was established on white supremacy culture which negatively impacts Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) communities. Examples include:

- The institution of slavery being Providence's principal source of income;
- The displacement of indigenous peoples through violence and lies;
- The race riots of Hardscrabble and Snow Town leading to the formation of the Providence Police Department;
- The displacement of Black and Indigenous communities to build industrial sites, highways, and roads;
- The defunding of schools whose students are majority Black, Latinx, and Southeast Asian;
- The over-policing of Black, Indigenous, and People of color neighborhoods;
- The tradition of placing toxic sites in and near Black, Indigenous, people of color neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Our current government was created at a time when discrimination was legal. Black people, Indigenous people, Immigrants as well as other identities were excluded from shaping these institutions; and

WHEREAS, The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond defines racism as Racial Prejudice plus Power; and

WHEREAS, It is not enough for the employees of Providence to be non-racist; City structures and policies need to be anti-racist; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Sustainability has partnered with frontline communities to create the Racial and Environmental Justice Committee and the Just Providence Framework to center racial equity in its work; and

WHEREAS, The Climate Justice Plan applied this framework to center frontline communities and addresses the root cause of the interconnected issues of public health, racism, climate and environmental sustainability; and

WHEREAS, According to a recent study https://drive.google.com/file/d/1x0ydiQNQNwok5Y6_4SwTW1hXGIGHyTxY/view published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, in the United States, particulate matter (PM) air pollution is disproportionately induced by the racial-ethnic majority (white people) and disproportionately inhaled by racial-ethnic minorities in low-income communities (BIPOC); and

WHEREAS, Extended exposure to particulate matter (PM) can cause conditions such as asthma that increases the risk of contracting COVID-19, and pose long term risks to loss of life; and

WHEREAS, Areas with increased exposure to PM, have been linked to a 8% increase <https://projects.iq.harvard.edu/covid-pm> in the death rate from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, The Climate Justice Plan is recognized as a national leader and model for community-centered planning, power-shifting, and climate justice; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Sustainability and frontline communities have the ongoing task of collaborating to implement and institutionalize the Climate Justice Plan. This includes updating existing policies such as zoning, developing new programs such as Green Justice Zones in Providence's Frontline communities, and creating new policies outlined in the plan; and

WHEREAS, The climate crisis is an ongoing serious threat to Providence, especially its frontline communities and it is exacerbating health and economic inequities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City shall commit to transforming into an anti-racist institution by following the "Continuum on Becoming an Anti-Racist Multicultural Organization" by continuing to support and invest in structures, programs, policies that align with the Just Providence Framework and Climate Justice Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Office of Sustainability is supported in the FY21 budget to improve the lives of Providence's BIPOC communities in order to mitigate long-term climate threats and reduce the loss of life with solutions that result in clean air and water, climate-resilient low-income housing, community health, environmental justice, youth programs, and economic justice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City will follow the Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership outlined in the Climate Justice plan and move towards collaborative governance decision-making processes that center those who are most impacted by the current health, environment, and economic crises.

IN CITY COUNCIL

JUL 16 2020

READ AND PASSED

Sabrina Mateo
PRES.

Karen Bellio
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

[Signature]

Mayor
Date: *7/22/20*

SUPPORTING RESOURCES

- Continuum on Becoming an Anti-Racist Multicultural Organization
<https://philanos.org/resources/Documents/Conference%202020/Pre-Read%20PDFs/Continuum_AntiRacist.pdf>
- Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership <http://www.providenceri.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/community_engagement_to_ownership_tools_and_case_studies_final-1.pdf>
- 'MN governor, leaders must act to save lives of states most vulnerable (4/9/20)
<https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmedium.com%2F%40shalini_14405%2Fmn-governor-leaders-must-act-to-save-lives-of-states-most-vulnerable-bd7abb42a590&data=02%7C01%7Ckristie.ellickson%40state.mn.us%7C026d2b7342e248d50fd308d7ec69c0d3%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637237811266239128&sdata=fL%2BxqxdCfvVM9PejtwQbpPkvEhCvFcPjAV5IWSqNDwI%3D&reserved=0>, S. Gupta and R O'Brien
- The Guardian: Coronavirus detected on particles of air pollution (4/24/20)
<<https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theguardian.com%2Fenvironment%2F2020%2Fapr%2F20%2Fair-pollution-may-be-key-contributor-to-covid-19-deaths-study&data=02%7C01%7Ckristie.ellickson%40state.mn.us%7C026d2b7342e248d50fd308d7ec69c0d3%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637237811266254101&sdata=dPJ%2BrfTVD5DHnvTfodRkMmUyapXa7wSbtb0cssW8q0M%3D&reserved=0>>
- Study: SARS-Cov-2 RNA Found on Particulate Matter of Bergamo in Northern Italy: First Preliminary Evidence (4/24/20)
<<https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.medrxiv.org%2Fcontent%2F10.1101%2F2020.04.15.20065995v2&data=02%7C01%7Ckristie.ellickson%40state.mn.us%7C026d2b7342e248d50fd308d7ec69c0d3%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637237811266249112&sdata=jNi%2F8xv2vejYMP47tsXZvschl6wXUupnrgxslvrywF0%3D&reserved=0>>
- BBC: Air pollution linked to raised Covid-19 death risk (4/20/20)
<<https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bbc.com%2Fnews%2Fhealth-52351290&data=02%7C01%7Ckristie.ellickson%40state.mn.us%7C026d2b7342e248d50fd308d7ec69c0d3%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637237811266259097&sdata=NPj%2BUxP3zjsN%2FqDUeFOcnZPBI9TG0MQLTyGn7ZbcyGc%3D&reserved=0>>
- NY Times: New Research Links Air Pollution to Higher Coronavirus Death Rates (4/7/20)
<https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nytimes.com%2F2020%2F04%2F07%2Fclimate%2Fair-pollution-coronavirus-covid.html&data=02%7C01%7Ckristie.ellickson%40state.mn.us%7C026d2b7342e248d50fd308d7ec69c0d3%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637237811266274065&sdata=4uCsJO1co9O7r4mLLyAFTWKL97CdsOzHnZO3isx3guQ%3D&reserved=0>

- Harvard Study: Air pollution linked with higher COVID-19 death rates
<<https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.hsph.harvard.edu%2Fnews%2Fhsph-in-the-news%2Fair-pollution-linked-with-higher-covid-19-death-rates%2F&data=02%7C01%7Ckristie.ellickson%40state.mn.us%7C026d2b7342e248d50fd308d7ec69c0d3%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637237811266279055&sdata=5Z4esCWjidXrYVzFP28IebGT2G5nyuEU%2BXmwJnnFJxw%3D&reserved=0>>