



Community Impact Statement to Support Black Lives Matter

Council File 20-0715

Hermon Neighborhood Council

The Hermon Neighborhood Council expresses our support for addressing racial inequity and systemic racism in Los Angeles and our support for the Black Lives Matter movement. Recently, there has been civil unrest throughout the entire world due to injustices perpetrated on African-Americans and people of color with the impetus of the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis Police that held him down with a knee to his neck for eight minutes, 46 seconds. George Floyd struggled, pleading for his life: “I can’t breathe,” until he drew his final breaths, calling for his mother

#BlackLivesMatter was founded in 2013 in response to the acquittal of Trayvon Martin’s murderer. Black Lives Matter Foundation, Inc is a global organization whose mission is to eradicate white supremacy and build local power to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities by the state and vigilantes. By combatting and countering acts of violence, creating space for Black imagination and innovation, and centering Black joy, #BLM is winning. Black Americans and other people of color have faced generations of systematic racism fueled by white supremacy. It is our immediate and sustained responsibility to recognize and correct all instances of racial injustice. The resolution asserts that racism is a public health crisis affecting our entire city. We find this to be undeniably evident. Furthermore, we emphatically support city-wide efforts to dismantle racism, solidify partnerships with Black Lives Matter and other

organizations confronting racism, amplify issues of racism, and to further enhance diversity and

to ensure *antiracism* principles across City government.

To compound the issues of racial inequality and structural racism, there is also the worldwide pandemic of COVID-19 that disproportionately affects people of color. Moving forward, there must be a method to explore racial health disparities across our nation. Black people having less access to healthcare and statistically higher rates of diabetes and heart disease have a tremendous impact on underserved neighborhoods that have already felt economic impacts since, for the most part, these communities are essential workers.

We draft this resolution due in large part to important studies that show how racism is a public health issue and was demonstrated by the Advancement Project's study *Race Counts- Tracking Racial Disparity in California*. This important study highlights that the first COVID-19 cases started in wealthier areas that had the privilege of traveling abroad and were able to fend off the disease by being able to shelter in place. Conversely, in communities of color that were often essential workers in retail stores or hospitals, the disease multiplied at an alarming rate. *"The COVID-19 crisis shows that one of the deadliest underlying conditions in America is systemic racism. For generations, racial and economic segregation has limited Angelenos' mobility, resulting in the concentration of low-income Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and other people of color in socioeconomically disadvantaged communities – communities exposed to toxic chemicals and other unhealthy land uses, failing infrastructure, and lack of access to services. The average life expectancy in L.A.'s City Council District 8 in South Los Angeles is 78.0 years, while the average in Council District*

5, which includes much of the Westside and parts of the San Fernando Valley, is 85.3 years(1).”

You can access this study at <https://www.racecounts.org>

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YES

NO

ABSTAIN