

RESOLUTION NO. 18-22

**RESOLUTION DECLARING RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS IN THE CITY OF WEST
LAFAYETTE, INDIANA**

WHEREAS, the Social Determinants of Health, defined as the social and material factors that influence health, including employment, housing, education, health care, public safety, and food access are known to impact life-long health outcomes beginning even before birth;

WHEREAS, health equity is defined as all residents having the opportunity to attain their highest level of health;

WHEREAS, inequalities are created when barriers prevent individuals and communities from accessing these conditions and reaching their full potential;

WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association finds racism to be a barrier to health equity and has named racism a driving force of how these social determinants of health are distributed;

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics has declared that racism is a barrier to wellness that has a profound impact on the health status of children, adolescents, emerging adults, and their families and that the continued negative impact of racism on health and well-being through implicit and explicit biases, institutional structures, and interpersonal relationships is clear;

WHEREAS, the United States Office of Disease Prevention recognizes that racial discrimination negatively impacts health outcomes;

WHEREAS, the American College of Physicians has found that African-Americans in particular are at risk of being subjected to discrimination and violence against them because of their race, endangering them and even costing them their lives;

WHEREAS, the non-partisan National Partnership for Women and Families has found that in the United States, health and racism are inextricably linked, creating a harmful impact on individuals and communities of color, including unequal access to quality education, employment, livable wages healthy food, stable and affordable housing, and safe and sustainable communities;

WHEREAS, the American Psychological Association, the American Medical Association, and the American Academy of Family Physicians have declared hate crimes a public health concern;

WHEREAS, the U.S. National Institutes of Health reports that multiple studies suggest that experiences of racism or discrimination raise the risk of emotional and physical health problems, including depression, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, and even death;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports that rates of infant and maternal mortality for Black mothers and children, due to living in geographical areas with less access to healthcare, and resulting in mortality rates more than twice that for White infants;

WHEREAS, the YWCA of Greater Lafayette has recognized disparities among the Black, Multiracial, and Latinx communities within Tippecanoe County, as found on the attached Exhibit A;

WHEREAS, racism operates on systemic, institutional, and interpersonal levels, all of which operate throughout time and across generations;

WHEREAS, it is recognized that our community has already made significant progress in addressing this issue, but acknowledges this resolution is the necessary next step forward; and

WHEREAS, it is the understanding of the Common Council of the City of West Lafayette that the Common Council of the City of Lafayette, Indiana and the County Commissioners of Tippecanoe County, Indiana have or shortly will be adopting substantially similar resolutions; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BET IT RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of West Lafayette, Indiana, as follows:

Section 1. That this Council declares racism to be a public health crisis in the City of West Lafayette, Indiana that affects all members of our community and deserves action from all levels of government and civil society.

Section 2. That the City commits to frank and open discussions on issues of race, racial disparities, and inequalities.

Section 3. That the City and all its Departments will address racial inequalities by investing, as much as possible, in disadvantaged neighborhoods and those neighborhoods whose residents suffer most from racial disparities.

Section 4. Under the City's Title VI Program, a review will be done of current policies and procedures for the express purpose of eradicating implicit and explicit racial bias.

Section 5. Under the City's Title VI Program, a plan will be created to collect data regarding racial disparities in department staffing, contracting, and all additional extensions of the City government with the purpose of incorporating racial equity into the analysis of governmental action.

Section 6. That the City should immediately access all available tools to eliminate disparities based on race, place, or identity across key indicators of success, including health, education, criminal justice, the environment, employment, and the economy.

Section 7. That the City will collaborate with additional key stakeholders within the community, including the West Lafayette Human Relations Commission, to assist them in incorporating the above-listed practices into their businesses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of West Lafayette, as follows:

THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT FROM AND AFTER ITS PASSAGE AND SIGNING BY THE MAYOR.

INTRODUCED ON FIRST READING ON THE 5 DAY OF July, 2022.

MOTION TO ADOPT MADE BY COUNCILOR Leverenz, AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR Thomas.

DULY ORDAINED, PASSED, AND ADOPTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA, ON THE 5 DAY OF July, 2022, HAVING BEEN PASSED BY A VOTE OF 8 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED, THE ROLL CALL VOTE BEING:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Blanco	✓			
Brown	✓			
Bunder	✓			
DeBoer			✓	
Hardesty	✓			
Leverenz	✓			
Parker	✓			
Sanders	✓			
Thomas	✓			


Peter Bunder, Presiding Officer

Attest:

Sana G. Booker
Sana G. Booker, Clerk



PRESENTED BY ME TO THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA ON THE 6
DAY OF July, 2022.

Sana G. Booker
Sana G. Booker, Clerk

THIS ORDINANCE APPROVED AND SIGNED BY ME ON THE 6 DAY OF
July, 2022.

[Signature]
John R. Dennis, Mayor

Attest:

Sana G. Booker
Sana G. Booker, Clerk



RESOLUTION NO 18-22 EXHIBIT A

According to the YWCA of Greater Lafayette, some of the disparities that exist among the Black, Multiracial, and Latinx communities within Tippecanoe County are as follows:

- 11.5% of Black and 19% of Latinx residents do not have health insurance coverage, as compared to 9.3% of White residents.
- The median infant mortality rate is 14.6 per 1,000 Black, Multiracial, and Latinx births compared to 6.1 for White births.
- The average median household income is \$28,191 for Black households compared to \$56,684 for non-Latinx White households.
- 40.4% of Black and 19.5% of Latinx residents live in poverty compared to 15.6% of White residents.
- 9.4% of Latinx and 11.07% of Black residents 25 or older have a bachelor's degree or higher, as compared to 22.6% of white residents.
- Among County residents employed full-time, the employment rate for White citizens is 63.9% compared to the 44.3% for Asian American and Pacific Islander citizens.