

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-45**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COACHELLA, CALIFORNIA, STATING CONVICTION THAT SYSTEMIC RACISM IS A HUMAN RIGHTS AND PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS WHICH RESULTS IN DISPARITIES IN FAMILY STABILITY, HEALTH AND MENTAL WELLNESS, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION, PUBLIC SAFETY, INCARCERATION AND HOUSING AND REAFFIRMING ITS COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION IN THE CITY.**

**WHEREAS**, communities in the Coachella Valley, Southern California, and nationwide continue to show their pain, anger, and calls for action over the senseless and violent deaths of Tony McDade, Elijah McClain, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd, among others, as well as the systemic injustice in our society that led to these deaths and of too many more people of color; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Coachella (“City Council”) acknowledges the historic role government and the planning profession have played in systemically driving and perpetuating societal inequities along racial lines that have resulted in vastly different living and social conditions and access to opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, the compounding effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic disruption have exposed the gross inequities that exist in our society; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council recognizes that systemic racism resulting from the inherent biases and prejudices within social and political organizations, groups, or institutions continue to create barriers to success for people of color; and

**WHEREAS**, systemic racism negatively impacts the social determinants of health, such as socioeconomic status, education, neighborhood and physical environment, employment, and social support networks, as well as access to health care; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council seeks to lead and/or join efforts to reverse the effects of the inequitable policies, processes, and practices of the past, and recognizes that it has a role to play in understanding and communicating the impacts that planning decisions have on low income families, communities of color, and other disadvantaged communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the City Council of the City of Coachella, California, that;

1. The City Council of the City of Coachella (“City Council”) stands in solidarity with those working toward a fair and just society, and with those calling for systemic change to eliminate all barriers that reduce opportunity and undermine City residents’ shared values and ability to thrive; and the City Council affirms its commitment to meaningfully advance justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion; and the City Council declares its intent to end racial and social

disparities internal to the City, strengthen the way it engages and convenes to protect and expand community voice and power, and work in partnership with others to close the gap of racial injustice and better serve our communities of color, and in so doing, serve all the people of the community.

2. Furthermore, based upon this affirmation, an ad hoc Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice shall be established by the City Council to further develop the City's response to advancing social justice throughout the City's activities, and advise the City Council on policies and practices to advance its resolved intentions. Regular reports shall be provided to the City Council on the work of the committee and a final set of recommendations shall be prepared within nine (9) months, for consideration by the City Council in May 2021.

**PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED** this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July 2020.

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Steven A. Hernandez  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Angela M. Zepeda  
City Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

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Carlos Campos  
City Attorney

STATE OF CALIFORNIA            )  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE        ) ss.  
CITY OF COACHELLA            )

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing Resolution No. 2020-45 was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Coachella at a regular meeting thereof, held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July 2020 by the following vote of Council:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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Andrea J. Carranza, MMC  
Deputy City Clerk