

RESOLUTION

NO. R-21-166

CITY HALL: May 6, 2021

**BY: COUNCILMEMBERS GLAPION, MORENO, BANKS, GISLESON PALMER,
BROSSETT AND NGUYEN**

WHEREAS, access to health and safety are foremost priorities of our citizens regardless of racial or ethnic identity; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), racism, both structural and interpersonal, are fundamental causes of health inequities, health disparities and disease; and

WHEREAS, raced-based inequities in access to all social and economic resources and opportunities that support health negatively affect the mental and physical health of millions of people; and

WHEREAS, centuries-long racial and ethnic discrimination persists in many policies that dictate access to housing, education, employment and basic opportunities for economic growth; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has found a direct correlation between communities with greater risk of poor health outcomes and the disparate treatment common to those demographics which consequently negatively impacts the entire nation; and

WHEREAS, poor and people color in New Orleans, specifically Black people or BIPOC people in New Orleans communities, experience these health disparities at a rate higher than the national average; and

WHEREAS, New Orleans’ national health ranking has improved over the last decade but historic disparities among minority groups persist; and

WHEREAS, systemic or structural racism inhibits improvement and cannot be undone through temporary program-based interventions; and

WHEREAS, New Orleans’ black population and other populations of color lag behind national averages in life expectancy; and

WHEREAS, black New Orleanians experience higher rates of infant mortality and are twice as likely as white counterparts to experience low birth weights; and

WHEREAS, black New Orleanians are significantly more likely to live with chronic and preventable illnesses and experience death by homicide; and

WHEREAS, life expectancy in historically underserved areas of New Orleans differs as much as 26 years from more affluent areas; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic, and its disproportionate impact among racial and ethnic minority populations is another stark example of these enduring health disparities; and

WHEREAS, the CDC concludes that the systemic racism is a root cause of prevalent racial and ethnic health inequities leading to poor health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, though there are myriad contributing factors, State and City leaders must act to mitigate negative impacts on our communities and strategically plan for better outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has committed to study the impact of social determinants on health outcomes, expand the body of evidence on how racism affects health, and propose and implement solutions to address inequity; **NOW THEREFORE**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, That the Council hereby requests, that the Louisiana Department of Health, and New Orleans Health Department make provisions to study and address disparate health impacts among black and minority communities consistent with the Centers for Disease Control guidelines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City shall seek opportunities to use emergency funding to invest in racial and ethnic minority communities and other disproportionately affected communities, in ways that promote a sustainable foundation and resources to address disparities related to COVID-19 and other health conditions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council requests the Clerk of Council to submit a copy of this Resolution to Mayor LaToya Cantrell, the Louisiana Department of Health, and New Orleans Health Department upon approval.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF, AND RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.