

1 [Declaring Anti-Black Racism as a Human Rights and Public Health Crisis]

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3 **Resolution declaring anti-Black racism as a human rights and public health crisis in**
4 **San Francisco; requesting that City and County of San Francisco departments and**
5 **agencies prioritize racial equity in all programs; and advocating for local, state,**
6 **regional, and federal anti-racist policies that advance efforts to dismantle systemic**
7 **racism.**

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9 WHEREAS, Racism is a system of structuring opportunity and assigning value based
10 on the social interpretation of how one looks (which is what we call "race"), that unfairly
11 disadvantages some individuals and communities, unfairly advantages other individuals and
12 communities, and saps the strength of the whole society through the waste of human
13 resources; and

14 WHEREAS, Anti-Black racism is hostility towards, opposition to, pathologizing of and
15 racism towards Black people and culture, manifested through individual, internalized,
16 interpersonal, institutional or systemic interactions, decisions, processes, and outcomes; and

17 WHEREAS, Public health studies have concluded that structural racism, not one's
18 race, is the explanation for health inequities; and

19 WHEREAS, The American Public Health Association (APHA) lists racism as the driving
20 force of the racial wealth gap and educational attainment gap; and

21 WHEREAS, It is the duty of public health practitioners to ensure equitable healthcare
22 access and health outcomes across the City and County of San Francisco, including
23 addressing the social determinants of health; and

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1 WHEREAS, It is the duty of human rights advocates to ensure that the City and County
2 of San Francisco reconcile its legacy of harm and trauma inflicted on marginalized
3 communities; and

4 WHEREAS, Black San Franciscans have persistently had poorer health than their
5 fellow residents in wide array of measures; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2014, a cross-divisional group convened and established the
7 Black/African American Health Initiative (BAAHI) to focus on correcting these disparities; and

8 WHEREAS, In San Francisco, Black people have a lower life expectancy than persons
9 of other races/ethnicities; and

10 WHEREAS, Black people have the highest mortality rate for 9 of the top 10 causes of
11 death in San Francisco; and

12 WHEREAS, Black San Francisco residents are the most likely to lack health insurance;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Age-adjusted rate of hospitalizations due to major depression among
15 Black/African Americans is almost 5 times higher than among Asian & Pacific Islanders who
16 have the lowest rate (23.79 vs 4.93 per 10,000 residents); high rates of hospitalizations
17 among Black/African Americans likely result from inadequate access to medical care; and

18 WHEREAS, Many of the sexually transmitted infections, including chlamydia,
19 gonorrhea and HIV, occur at higher rates in Black San Francisco residents in San Francisco;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, In San Francisco, significant maternal and infant death disparities persist
22 and over the past 10 years, Black people represented only 4 out of 100 births, but
23 experienced 5 out of 10 total maternal deaths, and 15 out of 100 infant deaths; and

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1 WHEREAS, The pre-term birth rate for Black infants born in San Francisco is twice as
2 high as the rate for white infants (13.8% vs 7.3%) and pre-term birth is associated with lower
3 educational attainment and lower earning potential; and

4 WHEREAS, Research thoroughly documents that economic insecurity causes physical
5 and psychological stress, which leads to preterm births and chronic health conditions, such as
6 health disease; and

7 WHEREAS, Predominantly Black U.S. countries are experiencing a three-fold higher
8 COVID-19 infection rate and a six-fold higher death rate than predominantly white countries;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Black people are overrepresented in frontline jobs such as Muni operators,
11 the postal service, and home aid industry, and have remained on their jobs as essential
12 workers through the shelter in place order, leading to higher rates of exposure to COVID-19;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, COVID-19 is killing Black Americans at alarming rates and in San
15 Francisco, Black residents make up 4.9% of the population, but represent almost 9% of
16 COVID-19 deaths; and

17 WHEREAS, The alarming rates at which COVID-19 is killing Black people extends
18 beyond comorbidities and can be attributed to decades of spatial segregation, inequitable
19 access to testing and treatment, and withholding racial/ethnicity data from reports on virus
20 outcomes; and

21 WHEREAS, Amongst the trans community, Black trans women face an epidemic of
22 violence, disproportionately experiencing fatal violence, unemployment, poverty, and
23 homelessness; and

24 WHEREAS, Black people are overrepresented in domestic violence cases reported
25 across age groups in San Francisco; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2017, African American children, youth, cis and trans women
2 represented the majority of reported human trafficking cases in San Francisco; and

3 WHEREAS, Black people report experiencing nearly 60% of all hate violence in San
4 Francisco; and

5 WHEREAS, San Francisco Department of Public Health has recognized incarceration
6 as a public health issue; and

7 WHEREAS, Black people are disproportionately represented throughout the criminal
8 justice system in San Francisco; and

9 WHEREAS, About 45% of all San Francisco Police Department use-of-force cases
10 involved Black people in 2019; and

11 WHEREAS, Black drivers and pedestrians accounted for 25% of all San Francisco
12 Police Department stops during the last three months of 2019 and roughly 40% of non-
13 mandatory searches; and

14 WHEREAS, Black people make up 4/9% of San Francisco but 41% of those
15 arrested, 43 percent of those booked into jail, and 38 percent of cases filed by prosecutors
16 between 2008 and 2014; and

17 WHEREAS, Black suspects in San Francisco are less likely to have their cases
18 dropped or dismissed than white suspects, and receive longer prison and jail sentences than
19 others; and

20 WHEREAS, Black women constitute nearly half of all female arrests and experience
21 arrest rates 13 times higher than women of other races; and

22 WHEREAS, Black people in San Francisco are 7.1 times more likely to be arrested
23 than white people; and

24 WHEREAS, There is strong evidence establishing the connection between housing
25 safety, security, and affordability to health outcomes as a social determinant of health; and

1 WHEREAS, Black households have a distinct disadvantage compared to white and
2 Asian homebuyers, as they can only afford 5.3 percent of home sale listings in San Francisco;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Black people have the lowest homeownership rates in San Francisco at
5 thirty-one percent; and

6 WHEREAS, Black people were systematically displaced by urban renewal in San
7 Francisco in the 1960s and 1970s, which subsequently led to a persistent decline in the
8 population; and

9 WHEREAS, Redevelopment intentionally targeted and disrupted Black neighborhoods
10 and the Black economy in San Francisco; and

11 WHEREAS, Black people represent 37% of the city’s unhoused population, a number
12 that accounts for 5 percent of all Black residents in the City; and

13 WHEREAS, Black residents comprise nearly forty percent of all public housing
14 residents; and

15 WHEREAS, Government-sanctioned racial discrimination in lending and the sale and
16 renting of homes—from racial covenants to redlining to exclusionary zoning— has made
17 housing a central feature of racial inequity in the city and the country; and

18 WHEREAS, San Francisco’s Black population has declined at nearly four times the
19 rate of the Bay Area, overall; and

20 WHEREAS, Black renter and owner households in San Francisco are the most
21 “severely cost burdened” by their housing costs, with about 25% and 20% spending over half
22 of their income on rent and mortgage, respectively; and

23 WHEREAS, Black families in San Francisco have the lowest median household income
24 of all groups (\$30,000); and

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1 WHEREAS, The racist legacy of policies like redlining, racial covenants, and the Social
2 Security Act prevented Black families from building wealth, and keeps them in neighborhoods
3 with lower access to traditional banking resources and higher concentrations of predatory pay-
4 day loans; and

5 WHEREAS, Racist hiring, promotion, compensation and retention practices against
6 Black employees in San Francisco have been widely documented; and

7 WHEREAS, Despite the abundance of wealth in San Francisco, the racial wealth gap
8 and gentrification have contributed to the mass displacement of Black San Franciscans; and

9 WHEREAS, The Black population in San Francisco is the only racial group to
10 consistently decline in every census count since 1970; and

11 WHEREAS, The economic insecurity from the racial wealth gap in San Francisco
12 impacts educational attainment and, subsequently, the earning potential and generational
13 wealth building of Black families; and

14 WHEREAS, San Francisco ranks as the county with the worst academic outcomes for
15 Black students in California, with only 19% of Black students in the city passing the state's
16 reading assessment in 2017; and

17 WHEREAS, Research shows that these poor educational outcomes are setting up
18 Black children in San Francisco for low earning jobs and subsequently limiting their ability to
19 build wealth; and

20 WHEREAS, Schools police and criminalize Black children, who made up 39% of all
21 students arrested on San Francisco school campuses from 2010 to 2013, despite being
22 only 8% of San Francisco students; and

23 WHEREAS, On June 25, 2020, the Human Rights Commission, unanimously passed
24 this Resolution declaring anti-Black racism as a human rights and public health crisis in San
25 Francisco; and

1 WHEREAS, On June 30, 2020, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously
2 passed a Resolution declaring war on racism from the City and County of San Francisco;
3 now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes anti-Black
5 racism as a human rights and public health crisis with particularly impacts on the civil rights,
6 health and wellbeing of Black individuals, Black families and the Black community; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reaffirms the Resolution
8 declaring anti-Black racism as a human rights and public health crisis in San Francisco
9 passed unanimously by the Human Rights Commission; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests that City and County
11 of San Francisco departments and agencies work with the Office of Racial Equity to
12 disaggregate all data by race and prioritize racial equity in all programs; train employees to
13 understand anti-Black racism and how it affects individual and population health; acknowledge
14 their complicity in these racist outcomes; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco will work with, and
16 center the Black community to dismantle institutionalized, anti-Black racism; commit to review
17 all portions of codified ordinances with a racial equity lens; commit to conduct all human
18 resources, vendor selection and grant management activities with a racial equity lens,
19 including reviewing all internal policies and practices such as hiring, promotions, leadership
20 appointments and funding; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors will advocate for and support
22 local, state, regional, and federal anti-racist policies that advance efforts to dismantle systemic
23 racism in order to improve the lives of Black people; require community partners and
24 stakeholders in the education, economic development, employment, housing, and criminal
25 justice and safety arenas to recognize anti-Black racism as a public health crisis and to

1 activate the above items; secure adequate resources to successfully accomplish the above
2 activities; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco will create an anti-
4 Black racism program evaluation framework for all City departments and City grantees where
5 the data must be produced at least every two years for the public as instructed by the
6 legislation that created the Office of Racial Equity.

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