

AGENDA ITEM #3

MEETING: Community Health, Environment, & Culture Committee

DATE: October 28, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Office of Equity

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Jonathan Malagon, Interim Chief Equity Officer

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT: Briefing on the Racism as a Public Health Crisis Resolution

SUMMARY:

A briefing from Metro Health and the Office of Equity to the Community Health, Environment and Culture Council Committee on efforts to advance racial equity per the action items indicated in the Racism as a Public Health Crisis Resolution.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In August of 2020, City Council adopted a Racism as a Public Health Crisis Resolution in response to the racial disparities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the national reckoning on racial injustice resulting from the high-profile cases of police officer-involved shootings of Black Americans. Systemic and structural racism, and the deeply entrenched racial inequities that they produce, are a driving force of how the social determinants of health are distributed and impact key health outcomes.

By adopting the Resolution, the City Council declared racism is a public health crisis, acknowledged the effects of systemic and structural racism in San Antonio, the impact racism has on life expectancy and overall health, and made a commitment to advocate for racial equity and justice as a core element of all policies, programs, and procedures. Additionally, the Resolution required City staff to provide bi-annual presentation to update the community about policies and programs implemented by the City to improve racial equity.

ISSUE:

The Office of Equity and Metro Health will provide a briefing to update the Community Health, Environment and Culture Committee on efforts implemented by the City to improve racial equity by:

- Reviewing policies and procedures that advance racial equity.
- Engaging historically marginalized communities.
- Improving data systems.
- Advancing health equity.
- Mitigating housing and job displacement.
- Promoting racially equitable City services, programs, and policies.

ALTERNATIVES:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact at this time.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff will brief the Community Health, Environment, and Culture Committee on progress made by City staff since the adoption of the Racism as a Public Health Crisis Resolution to promote racial equity in San Antonio.