

Delaware County Democratic Party
Resolution 2020-01

Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis

WHEREAS, racism is a social system with multiple dimensions -- individual racism that is internalized or interpersonal, and systemic racism that is institutional or structural -- and is a system of structuring opportunity and assigning value based on the social interpretation of how one looks; and

WHEREAS, race is a social construct with no biological basis; and

WHEREAS, racism unfairly disadvantages specific individuals and communities, while unfairly giving advantages to other individuals and communities and saps the strength of the whole society through the waste of human resources; and

WHEREAS, systemic racism is a root cause of poverty and constricts economic mobility, negatively impacting health care, criminal justice, education, housing, employment, food and nutrition and many more issues that determine health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, at this critical inflection point in American history, African Americans are confronting two crises -- the coronavirus pandemic and police brutality -- that are disproportionately impacting their community and bringing racial injustice to the forefront with peaceful demonstrations in cities and small towns in every state and around the globe; and

WHEREAS, Democratic leaders across the state have repeatedly called attention to these inequities and demanded action; and

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Commissioners, Cleveland City Council, Columbus City Council, Hamilton County Commissioners, Akron City Council, Summit County Council, Toledo City Council, Westerville City Council, and Lucas County Commissioners have considered or will consider resolutions to declare racism a public health crisis in their communities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Delaware County Democratic Party Executive Committee recognizes that structural and systemic racism is embedded and entrenched in every aspect of our nation, declares unequivocally that racism is a public health crisis and calls on Gov. Mike DeWine, Ohio's legislative leaders, and the Delaware County Commissioners to join in our declaration and enact equity in all state and county policies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we resolve to form alliances with other like-minded groups, including but not limited to: The A. Philip Randolph Institute, the NAACP, and Ohio Wesleyan University, as well as faith-based and community-based organizations.

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED that DCDP commits ourselves to play an active role in combatting systemic racism via such means to include, but not limited to: lobbying elected legislative bodies, writing letters to publications and officials, and providing testimony as appropriate.

Approved on July 23, 2020



Peg Watkins, Chair



Barbara Berry, Secretary