

RESOLUTION TO AFFIRM AND DECLARE ANTI-RACIST PRINCIPLES

Sponsor: Michael Sexton

Supported by: Congresswoman Joyce Beatty, Mayor Andrew J. Ginther, Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein, Columbus City Council President Shannon G. Hardin, Columbus City Councilmembers Liz Brown and Rob Dorans, County Commissioners Kevin Boyce, Marilyn Brown and John O'Grady, County Auditor Michael Stinziano, County Recorder Danny O'Connor, County Treasurer Cheryl Brooks Sullivan, Whitehall Mayor Kim Maggard, Upper Arlington City Councilmember Michaela Burris, Worthington City Councilmembers Beth Kowalczyk, Rachael Dorothy, and David Robinson, Reynoldsburg City Councilmembers Shanette Strickland, Kristin Bryant, and Stacie Baker, Franklin Township Trustee Aryeh Alex, Gahanna City Councilmember Merisa Bowers, State Representatives Erica Crawley, David Leland, and Kristin Boggs, State Senator Hearcel Craig, Gahanna School Board Member Beryl Piccolantonio, South Western School Board Member Anthony Caldwell, Columbus City School Board Member Eric Brown, State Representative Candidate Nancy Day-Achauer, and State Senate Candidate Crystal Lett.

Whereas, the Franklin County Democratic Party ("party") affirmatively stands on the side of all marginalized people, including black, brown, and other people of color; and

Whereas, the party recognizes and affirms that black, brown, and other people of color live every day under the unjust burdens of systemic, cultural, and individual racism; and

Whereas, this epidemic of racism has long been a public health and safety crisis, yet our local, county, state, and federal governments and institutions have not acted with the urgency owed to black, brown, and other people of color; and

Whereas, racism in law enforcement organizations poses an especially grave and deadly crisis for black, brown, and other people of color, and responsibility for reforming those systems sits with all of us; and

Whereas, the party acknowledges that we bear responsibility for not listening deeply, working cooperatively, and acting justly to eliminate racism everywhere and most urgently its presence in police-community relations; and

Whereas, we are deeply embedded in a time of universal crisis, made apparent by the horrific murder of George Floyd, an unarmed African American man, at the knee of the Minneapolis Police; and

Whereas, the legacy of police violence against black, brown, and other people of color stretches over four long, painful centuries and is a lasting barrier to true life, liberty, and justice in this nation; and

Whereas, our party and its elected leaders are uniquely positioned to join the work to identify, address, and eliminate racism in our systems of government and in our law enforcement

organizations, in partnership with the community, organized labor, business, faith leaders, nonprofit organizations, and responsible law enforcement personnel; and

Whereas, while we acknowledge efforts made by these elected and appointed leaders to build equitable systems and institutions, much work remains to be done, especially to transform law enforcement and criminal justice; and

Whereas, the party has a duty to stand with, uplift, and hold accountable all elected Democrats as they proactively seek to change those racist systems; and

Whereas, elected Democrats have proposed the following remedies to community-police relations in general, and racism within law enforcement, which we acknowledge to be the beginning of a sustained effort to eliminate racism:

1. Congressional, state, county, and municipal declarations of racism as a crisis and concrete legislative and policy actions to remedy that crisis.
2. Creating a Civilian Review Board in every charter municipality and advocating that all law enforcement agencies regulated by state statute be granted the authority to do so.
3. Fundamental policy changes in collective bargaining agreements to ensure law enforcement organizations and personnel have meaningful accountability and responsibility to every residents and communities they are sworn to serve and protect.
4. New state law requiring a use of force continuum for all law enforcement agencies.
5. Independent investigations of all law enforcement personnel use of force or severe injury or death in custody.
6. Independent prosecution of law enforcement personnel accused of improper or illegal use of force or death in custody.
7. Empowering municipal prosecutors to review and file all criminal complaints.
8. Conducting a review of all pedestrian and vehicular codes, both local and state, that may be used to create pretext for police action, thus eroding community trust while serving little public purpose.
9. Creating and enhancing data collection and reporting mechanisms by law enforcement organizations to ensure racial inequities can be identified at each point of the justice spectrum — ticketing, summons or arrest, arraignment, sentencing, incarceration, and community supervision.
10. Establishing whistleblower protocols and protections for individuals to safely report, outside the chain of command, racist or other discriminatory rhetoric, patterns, practices, or behaviors within those agencies and advocating that all law enforcement agencies regulated by state statute be granted the authority to do so.
11. Expanded cultural competency, implicit bias, crisis intervention, and de-escalation training embedded in all law enforcement training and in the policies, strategies, and tactics employed by law enforcement at every point in the justice spectrum.
12. Implementation of the City of Columbus Matrix Consulting and Community Safety Advisory Commission recommendations and advocating that all law enforcement agencies regulated by state statute be granted the authority to do so.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Executive Committee of the Franklin County Democratic Party:

Section 1. That we hereby declare and affirm that racism is a public health and safety crisis in our county.

Section 2. That we hereby declare and affirm that racism in law enforcement is a threat to the values and principles of this party and we have an affirmative duty to support and defend efforts by our volunteers, leaders, and electeds to dismantle that racism.

Section 3. That we offer the support and accountability of this Democratic Party to our endorsed and elected Democratic officials, volunteers, leaders, law enforcement officers, and the community at large as they seek to identify, address, and eliminate racism wherever they find it in their spheres of influence. Specifically, the Chair of the Executive Committee is hereby authorized and directed to draft and deliver letters of support for local, county, state, and congressional declarations of racism as a public crisis, and to use such party communication channels as they deem appropriate to further support such action on behalf of Democrats elected in Franklin County.

Section 4. That there is hereby established the Progress and Principles for People of Color Committee, which shall include all people of color on the Franklin County Democratic Party Central Committee and such other persons as appointed by the chair of the Executive Committee. The purpose of this Committee shall be to advise party leadership, and the governing committees thereof, on a bold, progressive political and policy agenda to support issues and candidates of importance to black, brown, and other communities of color in our county. The bylaws of the Committee shall further establish its mission, goals, and operations within the parameters established in this section.

Section 5. That the executive director of the Franklin County Democratic Party is hereby authorized and directed to provide a copy of this resolution to all members of the Central and Executive Committees of the Franklin County Democratic Party, distribute this resolution to the party's email list, and place the same on the party's website.

Section 6. That we affirm and declare the preambles hereto which are hereby made a part hereof.

Section 7. That this resolution shall be in force and effect from and after approval by a majority of the members of the Franklin County Democratic Party Executive Committee and shall remain in force and effect unless or until amended or rescinded by the same.