

To: Mayor and Council

From: Councilors Ellis and Struthers

Date: June 30, 2020

Subject: Resolution Supporting Black Lives Matter

Councilors Ellis and Struthers have worked together on a resolution to Support Black Lives Matter. In light of recent events and protests, it seemed appropriate and important for the council to speak. The resolution is based directly on the statement issued by the Benton County Commissioners (attached). However, we felt like the resolution structure and form was more in line with council past practice. The language, and, more importantly, the support and commitment, are the same. In supporting this resolution, the City Council is speaking in concert with the Benton County Commissioners.

Attachments:

Attachment A - Resolution
Attachment B - Benton County Statement

RESOLUTION 2020-_____

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING BLACK LIVES MATTER

Minutes of the July 6, 2020, Corvallis City Council meeting, continued.

A resolution submitted by Councilor Ellis.

WHEREAS, systemic racism silences vulnerable communities, overwhelmingly benefits the privileged, and enables those in power to abuse their power at the expense of the marginalized and vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, our history of systemic oppression disproportionately impacts Blacks and African Americans due to the forced migration and enslavement of African peoples hundreds of years ago; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the intersectionality of races, ethnicities and cultures and that people of color— Black/African American, Middle Eastern, Native American, Hispanic/Latinx and Asian/Pacific Islander— experience inequality, discrimination and prejudice as a daily occurrence; and

WHEREAS, this discrimination occurs in policing within communities of color; and

WHEREAS, it is also often exhibited through gerrymandering, voter suppression, redlining, and other societal structures; and

WHEREAS, to create meaningful change, we must acknowledge that the racist history of Oregon Benton County, and the City of Corvallis and its structural systems - including government—reinforces racism locally, statewide, and nationally; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oregon has begun a process of meaningful reform by recently passing several bills increasing police accountability and limiting the use of chokeholds and tear gas.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORVALLIS RESOLVES that we are dedicated to examining racism within the city of Corvallis and we are committed to listening to the needs of the communities that we serve. We have and will continue to have these conversations with our law enforcement partners and our elected legislators.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Today we stand in solidarity with our Black community. We affirm that Black lives matter today, yesterday and forever.

Councilor

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the foregoing resolution was adopted, and the Mayor thereupon declared said resolution to be adopted.



ATTACHMENT B
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
205 NW Fifth Street
P.O. Box 3020
Corvallis, OR 97339-3020
(541) 766-6800
FAX (541) 766-6893

Statement from the Board

In the weeks since George Floyd lost his life, communities across the nation are coming together in protest to give voice to the centuries of inequality, exploitation and abuse suffered by Black and African American people in our country. The demands for change cannot go unanswered.

Our history of systemic oppression disproportionately impacts Black and African Americans due to the forced migration and enslavement of African peoples hundreds of years ago. We recognize the intersectionality of races, ethnicities and cultures and that people of color—Black/African American, Middle Eastern, Native American, Hispanic/Latinx and Asian/Pacific Islander—experience inequality, discrimination and prejudice as a daily occurrence.

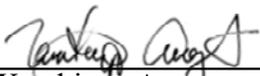
To create meaningful change, we must understand the racist history that Oregon and Benton County have experienced and the structural systems - including government—that reinforce racism locally, statewide and nationally. We must commit to challenge and deconstruct these systems.

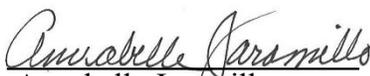
Systemic racism silences vulnerable communities, overwhelmingly benefits the privileged, and enables those in power to abuse their power at the expense of the marginalized and vulnerable. It exists beyond policing within communities of color. It is often exhibited through gerrymandering, voter suppression, redlining, and other societal structures. All systems that reinforce oppression and racism must be thoroughly examined, changed where needed and rebuilt in coordination with the people that have been historically disenfranchised. This work needs to happen at every level within our County, as well as in concert with our state and federal partners.

The Benton County Board of Commissioners is dedicated to examining racism within Benton County and we are committed to listening to the needs of the communities that we serve. We have and will continue to have these conversations with our law enforcement partners and our elected legislators. Today we stand in solidarity with our Black community. We affirm that Black lives matter today, yesterday and forever.

Sincerely,


Pat Malone


Xanthippe Augerot


Annabelle Jaramillo