



CITY OF FRAMINGHAM

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Thatcher W. Kezer III
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CITY OF FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS MAYOR YVONNE M. SPICER AND THE FRAMINGHAM BOARD OF HEALTH

A JOINT ORDER DECLARING RACISM AN EMERGENCY AND PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS IN THE CITY OF FRAMINGHAM

ORDER NO. EO2020-004

WHEREAS, racism is a threat to public health and safety, and is a paramount social determinant of health, shaping access to the resources that create opportunities for health, including public safety, housing, education, and employment, and is a persistent barrier to health equity for all residents of Framingham; and

WHEREAS, in addition to having an independent influence on the social determinants of health, racism in and of itself has been proven to have broad-reaching and direct negative impacts on individual health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, racial justice is the creation and proactive reinforcement of policies, practices, attitudes, and actions that produce equitable power, access, opportunity, treatment, and outcomes for all people regardless of race; and

WHEREAS, agencies of the City government must recommit to addressing the impact that racism has on the lives of all of our neighbors and how it impacts the overall health of our City; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed, reaffirmed, and cast in sharp relief the emergency nature of these pre-existing inequities caused by systemic racism. In cases where race and ethnicity are known, the rate of reported COVID-19 cases for Black Framingham residents is 327.2 per 10,000, compared with 377.8 per 10,000 for Latin/Hispanic residents and 101 per 10,000 for white residents (note that the disparity between white and non-white populations would be even higher except many residents of Brazilian descent describe themselves as white); and

WHEREAS, all Framingham residents and businesses are welcome to join in working toward a city where all residents live fulfilling lives free of racism, poverty, violence, and other systems of oppression;



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NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority under Article III, Section of the Framingham Home Rule Charter as to the Mayor and G.L. c. 111, §104 and other relevant statutes generally as to the Board of Health, we hereby jointly order and direct as follows: We, Yvonne M. Spicer, Mayor of Framingham, and the members of the Framingham Board of Health, hereby jointly declare that racism constitutes an emergency and a public health crisis in the City of Framingham.

In recognition of this fact, Mayor Spicer hereby orders all City divisions to work in partnership with the Mayor's Office and the City's Public Health Division to undertake the following eight key strategies to combat racism as a public health crisis and resulting health inequities:

1. Develop policy and practice solutions that work to dismantle the systemic racism that creates barriers to strong public health. Strategies include using a "health equity in all policies" approach to evaluate current policies and practices and ensure access to data to drive equitable policy and practice development.
2. In partnership with the City's existing COVID-19 task force(s), develop an equity plan that outlines detailed objectives and measurable goals in which the City will focus on root causes of the inequities that cause disparities in health outcomes for our residents.
3. Engage historically marginalized communities in identifying problems and solutions and supporting community-driven responses.
4. Ensure complete and regular availability of specific race and ethnicity data that documents the health inequities that exist in Framingham through collection, dissemination, and remedies for gaps in that data to strengthen our collective understanding. This should include data sharing between the Framingham Public Health Division and relevant agencies of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
5. Conduct ongoing and enhanced analysis using all available data to understand the complexity of the interconnectedness of societal, environmental and behavioral factors that contribute to the impact of racism on access to those resources that promote good health including good jobs, access to healthy and affordable food and housing, equitable transportation options and excellent public education. This includes a more comprehensive understanding of racism and its impact on violence in the community both as a direct correlation to its existence and the impact that it creates on the overall health of people and the community at large.
6. Focus on access to prevention and treatment that is culturally and linguistically competent and meets communities where they are to counter the inequities that exist in health care.



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7. Develop direct service programs and services to address the negative impact that these inequities have had on specific populations as well as programs that empower communities to tackle these systemic barriers.


8. Advocate at the state and federal level for policies and funding opportunities that directly combat systemic racism.

Mayor Spicer further orders every City division, department, agency, and office to take all necessary steps to implement this Joint Order, including through the allocation of funding and other resources in a manner consistent with applicable law.

The provisions of this Order are severable and if any provision, or portion thereof, should be held to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions that shall remain in full force and effect.

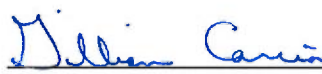
This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect unless superseded or otherwise changed by a subsequent order of the Mayor and the Framingham Board of Health.

SIGNED THIS 16 DAY OF JUNE 2020



Yvonne M. Spicer
Mayor

FRAMINGHAM BOARD OF HEALTH,



Gillian Carcia, Chair



David Moore, Vice Chair



Laura Housman, Secretary

cc: City Council, School Committee, City Division and Department Heads, Boards and Commissions, Chief Operating Officer, City Solicitor, Dr. Robert Tremblay, Media Outlets