

Fayetteville Mayor's African American Advisory Council declares racism a public health crisis

The Fayetteville Mayor's African American Advisory Council has presented a resolution to the mayor declaring racism a public health emergency in the City of Fayetteville and recommended a series of action steps to dedicate more resources to racial equity work.

The Fayetteville Mayor's African American Advisory Council is a group of African American residents in the City of Fayetteville appointed by the Mayor to advise them on matters and the well-being of all African American residents. The Council's mission is to assure African American residents equitable access to economic, social, and vocational opportunities.

The Mayor's African American Advisory Council will hold a press conference on August 11, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. at Levels 2 Barber Lounge 2597 N College Ave, Fayetteville, AR 72703. Face masks and social distancing guidelines will be followed.

The resolution notes that "racism in all its forms causes persistent discrimination and disparate outcomes in many areas of life, including housing, education, health, employment, public safety, and criminal justice; exacerbated further by the COVID-19 pandemic crisis," and "a multitude of studies connect racism to inequitable health outcomes for African Americans, including cancer, coronary heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, high infant and maternal mortality rates demonstrating that racism is the root cause of social determinants of health."

The resolution recommends the City Council and mayor to recognize the "severe impact of racism on the wellbeing of residents and the city overall" and to allocate funding, staff, and resources to "actively engage in racial equity to name, reverse, and repair the harm done to African American community."

This action is the first step in a long-overdue restorative measure for our African American community. We encourage you to support the Fayetteville Mayor's African American Advisory recommended

resolution addressing Racism is a public health issue. The measure will be voted on August 18, 2020. We encourage you to voice your support by emailing and calling the Mayor and City Council to pass this resolution.