RESOLUTION NO. BOS-2020-104

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA AFFIRMING THAT BLACK LIVES MATTER, CONDEMNING RACIAL VIOLENCE, AND COMMITTING TO EQUITY, JUSTICE, AND INCLUSIVE COLLABORATION WITH AND FOR BLACK COMMUNITIES TOWARDS ELIMINATION OF SYSTEMIC AND INSTITUTIONAL RACIAL INEQUITIES

WHEREAS, systemic and institutional racial inequities are a pervasive injustice;

WHEREAS, Black Lives Matter is a reclamation of and recommitment to Black organizing and the Black freedom struggle;

WHEREAS, Black Lives Matter is an activist movement which began as a hashtag (#BlackLivesMatter) by Alicia Garza after George Zimmerman was acquitted in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed Black teenager killed in July 2013;

WHEREAS, there is a larger context and history of unarmed Black men and boys who were killed at the hands of the police;

WHEREAS, Black women and girls are also targets of police violence, a reality that sparked the “Say Her Name” movement to highlight how this violence often goes unnoticed;

WHEREAS, Black women who have died as a result of police interactions include Sandra Bland (2015), Deborah Danner (2016), Atatiana Jefferson (2019), and Breonna Taylor (2020);

WHEREAS, Black transgender men and women have been particularly impacted by transphobia and anti-trans violence by law enforcement, as evident in the recent death of Tony McDade, a Black trans man who was shot and killed by police in Tallahassee, Florida;

WHEREAS, the recent killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade and other Black Americans at the hands of white police officers and vigilantes ignited recent rounds of protests;

WHEREAS, Americans have turned out for what researchers are calling the most sweeping and sustained protests in the country’s history, with demonstrations in all 50 states and the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, flames of racial injustice have burned in our country for centuries, and it will take action on every level of government to create meaningful change;

WHEREAS, to better understand the depths of the injuries of the present, we must acknowledge the histories of systemic racial injustices and the role government institutions continue to play;
WHEREAS, the County of Santa Clara’s mission is to plan for the needs of a dynamic community, provide quality services, and promote a healthy, safe, and prosperous community for all;

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Clara is committed to examining policies and working with communities to serve our mission in its full capacity, to dismantle systems of oppression, and to ensure equity, inclusivity, and social justice;

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Clara is committed to reimagine and create a world free of anti-Blackness, where every Black person has the social, economic, and political power to thrive;

WHEREAS, as lawmakers, leaders, and residents of Santa Clara County, we must not only recognize decades of inequities but also commit to action to ensure equity in our respective government bodies;

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors affirms that Black Lives Matter and commits to intentionally building and nurturing a beloved community that is bonded together and committed to the liberation of all Black people and the fight for collective freedom;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara, California, that:

1. The County affirms that all Black Lives Matter, inclusive of any and all actual or perceived sexual identity, gender identity, gender expression, economic status, ability, disability, religious beliefs or disbeliefs, immigration status, or location.

2. The County joins cities, counties, and states across the country in affirming its commitment to a world where Black lives are no longer systemically targeted.

3. The County commits to collaborating with community leaders to create a culture where our Black communities feel seen, heard, and supported.

4. The County commits to end acts of police violence against Black lives, and create space for Black imagination, innovation, and joy.

5. The County commits to developing an organization in which all employees are change agents, and promoting equity within our organization through training, equitable and systemic workforce development at all levels, and expansion of equitable resources and decision-making.

6. The County commits to developing and maintaining a workforce that is racially diverse and culturally responsive in order to provide equitable, high-quality services to our communities.
7. The County commits to reform and strategies for justice, acknowledgement, respect, and the celebration of differences and commonalities as we work vigorously for the freedom and justice for Black people.

8. The County will continuously learn from and partner with our Black community members to help achieve equality across our nation.

9. The County calls upon all counties, cities, and local governments across the United States to adopt similar commitments to reaffirm their solidarity with Black communities locally and across the country.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara, State of California, on JUN 23, 2020 by the following vote:

AYES: CHAVEZ, CORTESE, ELLENBERG SIMITIAN, WASSERMAN

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

CINDY CHAVEZ, President
Board of Supervisors

Signed and certified that a copy of this document has been delivered by electronic or other means to the President, Board of Supervisors.

ATTEST:

MEGAN DOYLE
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

JAMES R. WILLIAMS
County Counsel