

RESOLUTION NO. 120-2020 (PSH)

By Council Members Russell, Ungar, and Hart

A Resolution establishing a Racial Justice Task Force and prescribing the composition, duration, purpose and duties of such Task Force; and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, on July 6, 2020, this Council adopted Resolution 78-2020, condemning the murder of George Floyd by the Minneapolis Police Department, declaring racism to be a public health crisis, and expressing support for statewide legislation to implement best policy practices to address racial bias and improve police-community relations, and to combat racism; and

WHEREAS, Council wishes to create a special Racial Justice Task Force to offer advice and recommendations to City Council on methods and opportunities to analyze and understand the impacts of racism including implicit bias, to enhance racial justice and cultural competence in policing, to improve police-community relations, and to advance racial and ethnic equity and fairness in the Cleveland Heights community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. There is hereby established the Cleveland Heights Racial Justice Task Force (“Task Force”). The Task Force shall be composed of twenty-five (25) members, who shall serve without compensation. Twenty (20) of the Task Force members shall be residents of the City, while five (5) may be non-resident representatives of businesses located in Cleveland Heights and unaffiliated with any resident member. Interested residents or business representatives will submit an application on a form prescribed by the City for this purpose. The members of the Task Force shall be appointed by Council by motion following a review process including review of an application submitted by each prospective member. Each Council member may designate one Task Force member, and the balance shall be proposed by City Council as a matter of consensus. The members of the Task Force shall select a chairperson, a vice chairperson to serve in the absence or unavailability of the Chair, and a Secretary. In the event of the resignation, death, or disability of a Task Force member, or removal by a majority vote of the Council for excessive absence, the Council may replace the member in the same fashion in which that member was appointed (i.e., by confirmation of the designation of a single Council member or as a matter of consensus). Meetings of the Task Force shall be open to the public and shall be held according to a schedule to be determined by the Task Force, but in no event less frequently than monthly.

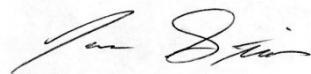
SECTION 2. The purpose of the Task Force is to analyze racial justice and equity within the City of Cleveland Heights as a community and as a municipal organization, and to recommend processes, policies and action steps to create an inclusive community where the likelihood of success is not based on race or ethnicity, where law enforcement and the justice system operate free from bias, and where diversity is recognized as a hallmark of a strong, resourceful and resilient community. To accomplish this goal, the Task Force will prepare a report that summarizes the Task Force’s efforts and aforementioned recommendations, and includes recommendations on

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whether the City should establish a Commission or Commissions to serve purposes similar to the Task Force's purposes on an ongoing basis. The Task Force shall adjourn and complete its work not later than nine months after its first meeting, unless this period is extended by Council.

SECTION 3. Notice of the passage of this Resolution shall be given by publishing the title and abstract of its contents, prepared by the Director of Law, once in one newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cleveland Heights.

SECTION 4. This Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the inhabitants of the City of Cleveland Heights, such emergency being the urgent need to obtain the advice and recommendations of the Racial Justice Task Force without delay. Wherefore, provided it receives the affirmative vote of five (5) or more of the members elected or appointed to this Council, this Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.



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JASON S. STEIN, Mayor  
President of the Council



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AMY HIMMELEIN  
Clerk of Council

PASSED: November 2, 2020