

COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK, MARYLAND
Resolution 2020-R-18

Introduced by: CM Marsha Dixon

Date Introduced: June 2, 2020

Date Adopted: June 2, 2020

Date Effective: June 2, 2020

FOR THE PURPOSE OF establishing a commitment to policies, programs and initiatives that aim to undo the effects of systemic racism and unequivocally support and defend African Americans and Black people, hereinafter referred to as Black people.

WHEREAS, racial prejudice is most harmful when it is held by people in positions of power, it is incumbent on elected and appointed officials, and other individuals in positions of power and influence to speak out; and

WHEREAS, it is important to understand the history of Black people being bought and sold as slave labor for nearly 250 years as individuals suffered unspeakable acts of violence, including: assault, rape, mutilation, and murder at the hands of their captors; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Riverdale Park is located on land that was previously the Riversdale plantation at which enslaved persons were held, and that the original plantation house stands prominently in Town; and

WHEREAS, the ugly history of violence and discrimination against Black people persists despite the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments and the adoption of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1968; and

WHEREAS, today as a result of this history, implicit and explicit biases, racial profiling, institutional structures, and interpersonal relationships, Black people continue to experience inequalities across many aspects of daily living, including, but not limited to, housing, education, employment, the criminal legal system, and health care; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association and the American College of Physicians are emphasizing that racism is a public health issue; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics issued a 2019 policy statement that says in part that *“Racism is a social determinant of health that has a profound impact on the health status of children, adolescents, emerging adults, and their families... and that evidence to support the continued negative impact of racism on health and well-being through implicit and explicit biases, institutional structures, and interpersonal relationships is clear;”* and

WHEREAS, the Town has adopted a Diversity and Inclusion policy statement that guides the delivery of all Town services, and requires in part that all Black people within the Town and in their interactions with the Town are to be treated fairly, with dignity and equity, and to have their humanity, existence, and contributions valued; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Riverdale Park do hereby establish this commitment to policies, programs and initiatives that aim to undo the effects of systemic racism and unequivocally support and defend Black people.

ATTEST:

**COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF
RIVERDALE PARK:**

Jessica E. Barnes, Town Clerk



Alan K. Thompson, Mayor