

RESOLUTION NO. 8-2021 (PSH)

By Council Members Ungar, Hart, and Russell

A Resolution amending Resolution No. 120-2020 to modify and clarify the structure, composition, appointment process, and powers of the Racial Justice Task Force; and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, on July 6, 2020, this Council adopted Resolution No. 78-2020, condemning the murder of George Floyd by the Minneapolis Police Department, declaring racism to be a public health crisis, expressing support for statewide legislation to implement best policy practices to address racial bias and improve police-community relations, and calling for creation of the City's own task force to determine what we must do to combat the effects of racism in our city in honor of our diversity; and

WHEREAS, on November 2, 2020, this Council adopted Resolution No. 120-2020, establishing 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; and

WHEREAS, this Council has determined that it would be in the best interest of the City and its residents to modify and clarify the structure, composition, and process for appointing members of the Racial Justice Task Force.

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

SECTION 1. The provisions of Resolution No. 120-2020 shall be, and are hereby, amended and modified only to the extent provided herein. All provisions of Resolution No. 120-2020 not inconsistent with the provisions of this Resolution \_\_\_-2021 shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 2. The Racial Justice Task Force established by Resolution 120-2020 ("Task Force) shall be composed of twenty-five (25) members of diverse backgrounds that represent a fair cross section of the City of Cleveland Heights, as further described in Section 3 herein. The members of the Task Force 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.

SECTION 3. The members of the Task Force shall be appointed by Council by motion following a review process including review of applications submitted by prospective members. This Council's appointment deliberation shall reflect consideration of several factors including, but not limited to, race, cultural identity, ethnicity, color, gender, gender identify, sexual

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orientation, age, religion, and geographic location of applicants' residence or business within the City, with due weight being given to applicants who have been impacted first-hand by unfair or inequitable treatment on a proscribed basis. Initially, each Council member shall designate one Task Force member. Subsequently Council shall select a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson from the initially-appointed members, after receiving recommendations from the Public Safety and Health Committee of Council. The balance of the Task Force members shall be appointed by Council, as a matter of consensus, after consideration of recommendations from the Public Safety and Health Committee of Council and the selected Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Task Force.

SECTION 4. The members of the Task Force shall select one of their members as 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 5. 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 shall adjourn and complete its work not later than (24) months after its first meeting, unless this period is changed by Council upon recommendation of the Task Force Chair and Vice-Chair, or upon Council's own initiative.. The Task Force Chair shall submit bi-annually a detailed report of goals, accomplishments, actions, and recommendations. At the conclusion of its work, the Task Force Chair and Vice-Chair shall recommend to Council whether the City should establish a Commission or Commissions to continue the work of the Task Force on an ongoing basis.

SECTION 6. In fulfilling its charge, should the Task Force identify a need for one or more professional consultant(s) to aid and assist in the Task Force's work, it may request that Council provide such assistance. This Council, upon request of the Task Force, may, within budgetary parameters, authorize the engagement of professional consultants deemed necessary or appropriate for the Task Force to properly complete its work.

SECTION 7. 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 8. 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

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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  
President of Council

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AMY HIMMELEIN  
Clerk of Council

PASSED: February 1, 2021