



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: July 14, 2020
Agency: City of Belmont
Staff Contact: Afshin Oskoui, City Manager, aoskoui@belmont.gov 650-595-7408
Agenda Title: Belmont's Commitment to Safeguard the Civil Rights, Safety and Dignity of All Community Members
Agenda Action: Resolution

Recommendation

Adopt a Resolution affirming Belmont's commitment to values of equity, fairness, and justice in responding to the killing of George Floyd on May 25 and the spotlight on racist policing and the dehumanization of African Americans in the criminal legal system.

Strategic Focus Area

Public Safety

Background

At the City Council Meeting on March 28, 2017, the Council adopted a resolution expressing Belmont's support for Civil Rights. The resolution expressed a level of community support that is consistent with the City of Belmont's Vision Statement and General Plan. In fact, the Council as part of the 2017 Priority Setting process modified the City's Vision Statement to include a commitment to diversity and inclusion, which the adoption of the Resolution 2017-027 represented.

At the City Council Meeting on May 26, 2020 the Council adopted an update to the Civil Rights Resolution affirming the City of Belmont's commitment to values of equity, fairness, and justice, and denouncing stigmatization, racism, and xenophobia in responding to COVID 19.

The killing of George Floyd on May 25, 2020 has returned the spotlight on racist policing and the dehumanization of African Americans in the criminal legal system. George Floyd was killed by Minneapolis police officers while in their custody, joining a horrifically long list of Americans who have suffered similar fates.

At the City Council Meeting on June 9th, Councilmembers Hurt and Mates were appointed to work as a subcommittee of the council in partnership with our police department to review protocol, and explore experiences of the public. Additionally, the subcommittee has provided feedback in modifying the Civil Rights resolution consistent with the original intent of the 2017 action, while incorporating and affirming the City's values in joining the community in condemning acts of violence by law enforcement against black people.

Analysis

Staff worked with the committee and is presenting the attached resolution for the City Council’s consideration to reaffirm our commitment to safeguard the Civil Rights, Safety and Dignity of All Community Members with additional statements of support to join the community in condemning acts of violence by law enforcement against black people. Recognizing the expression of public concern is the essence of democracy and a caring populace.

Alternatives

- 1. Provide direction and postpone for future discussion.

Attachments

- A. Draft Resolution

Fiscal Impact

- No Impact/Not Applicable
- Funding Source Confirmed:

Source:

- Council
- Staff
- Citizen Initiated
- Other*

Purpose:

- Statutory/Contractual Requirement
- Discretionary Action
- Plan Implementation*

Public Outreach:

- Posting of Agenda
- Other*

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