

Resolution 22-

WHEREAS, the Olmsted County Board of Commissioners recognized that race and racism is a public health issue (Resolution No. 20-153); and

WHEREAS, the Olmsted County Board of Commissioners directed the Olmsted County Public Health Services Advisory Board and the Olmsted County Human Rights Commission to jointly study and investigate race and racism as a public health issue, with special emphasis on the services the county provides; and

WHEREAS, Olmsted County acknowledges the impacts of systemic racism are real and have occurred for hundreds of years; and that it is essential to understand, identify, and address institutional and systemic barriers; and

WHEREAS, the assigned advisory boards and the Joint Study subgroup, along with assigned staff have been working since 2020 to define, gather data, learn and understand, and assess this issue in order to create recommendations for Olmsted County; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, Olmsted County employees, community organizations and partners, minority groups with lived experience (BIPOC populations), and the general public were all invited to participate and provide input into draft recommendations that have now been finalized and presented to the Olmsted County Board of Commissioners.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Olmsted County Board of Commissioners accepts the final Report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Olmsted County Board directs County staff to move forward with implementation planning of the Report's recommendations at the Board's direction with the understanding that moving forward will require time and community involvement to resolve.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Olmsted County acknowledges that this work would not be possible without the volunteers from the Public Health Services Advisory Board and the Human Rights Commission. We sincerely thank them for their dedication to this important Board initiative.

Dated at Rochester, Minnesota this 4th day of October 2022.

OLMSTED COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mark Thein, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Lisa Morris-Helmstetler, Deputy Clerk to the County Board