

## ORDINANCE NO. 049-2020

TO AFFIRM THE FRANKLIN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DECLARATION ASSERTING THAT RACISM IS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS AND THE CITY OF WHITEHALL RECOGNIZES AND AFFIRMS THAT BLACK, BROWN AND OTHER PEOPLE OF COLOR LIVE EVERYDAY UNDER THE UNJUST BURDENS OF SYSTEMATIC CULTURAL AND INDIVIDUAL RACISM AND TO SET FORTH APPROPRIATE AND MEASURABLE ACTIONS TO COMBAT RACISM IN THE CITY OF WHITEHALL SO THAT THE COMMUNITY MIGHT BETTER SERVE AS A MODEL OF INCLUSIVENESS AND EQUITY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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**WHEREAS**, on May 12, 2020 the Franklin County Board of Health, the governing body of Franklin County Public Health (FCPH), joined a growing number of cities and counties across the United States in declaring racism a public health crisis in our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Franklin County Health Commissioners have called all levels of government to action to address injustices caused by racism to ensure equal opportunity for all; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Whitehall is a partner in promoting public health insofar as the City provides emergency medical and community paramedic services, public health education, substance abuse assistance, sanitation and other related public health services and therefore has a commitment to the community to combat racism; and

**WHEREAS**, FCPH declared that “communities of color, those of low social economic status and those that suffer from disabilities, are more likely to experience poor health outcomes as a consequence of their social determinants of health — health inequities stemming from economic stability, education, physical environment, food and access to health care systems;” and

**WHEREAS**, on a state-wide basis, the Health Policy Institute of Ohio reports that racism and related segregation have created a health divide with Black Ohioans having lower life expectancies than White Ohioans; being far more likely than other races to die prematurely (before the age of 75); and to die of heart disease or stroke; and that Black Ohioans also have higher levels of infant mortality, lower birth weights, are more likely to be overweight or obese, have adult diabetes, and have long-term complications from diabetes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Health Policy Institute of Ohio and Policy Matters Ohio report that preliminary data supports that Black Ohioans are dying from coronavirus at a disproportionately high rate; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Whitehall recognizes that racism causes discrimination in multiple other areas of life including financial stability, housing, education, employment and criminal justice; and

**WHEREAS**, as highlighted in *Franklin County's Rise Together - A Blueprint for Reducing Poverty*: the Ohio School District Report Card Website – Kerwin Analysis reported that Black Franklin County residents experience dramatically higher unemployment rates; face a higher poverty rate as a community; experience disproportionately higher incarceration rates; have lower home ownership rates and are more likely to live in neighborhoods with low performing schools;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Whitehall's mission is to “being an innovative, diverse and vibrant community of thriving neighborhoods that are home to exceptional recreational opportunities and flourishing businesses;” and that this mission statement holds the City accountable to bettering the lives of all residents, and especially community members including black, brown and other people of color; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Whitehall's responsibilities to address racism includes committing to measurable, meaningful actions to guide future community engagement, policy review and equitable practices; and

**WHEREAS**, crime was identified as the highest concern for Whitehall citizens in the last Saperstein study and the Whitehall Police have the highest overall satisfaction rating in the same study for service due to crime reduction and

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community interaction; and the Whitehall Police have been committed to 2003 Department of Justice (DOJ) plan for Avoiding Violence Between Police and Citizens and President Obama's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing model; and the Whitehall Police are committed to further improving relations between officers and our community; and the Whitehall Police wish to take steps to advance a sense of equitable police services through its Excellent in Policing model.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Whitehall, Franklin County, Ohio, that the City of Whitehall commits to:

**SECTION 1.** Affirming the declaration made by FCPH asserting that racism is a public health crisis affecting the Franklin County community, including the City of Whitehall.

**SECTION 2.** Adopting a glossary of terms and definitions concerning racism and health equity once such a glossary is released by Franklin County Public Health.

**SECTION 3.** Training all City of Whitehall staff on implicit biases, including racism, and how to mitigate them.

**SECTION 4.** Fostering community conversations, listening intently, and working cooperatively with public safety and the Whitehall community and residents, including black, brown and other people of color.

**SECTION 5:** Reviewing community paramedic and police response policies, including use of force, with a racial equality lens and to make changes as needed to promote racial equity, specifically as it relates to and including black, brown and other people of color and utilizing the Safer Whitehall Town meeting discussion and outcomes as a means to address racism in the City of Whitehall and ultimately creating a Civilian Review Board.

**SECTION 6.** Encouraging new housing developers in the City of Whitehall to integrate an affordable and/or workforce housing component to ensure that access to safe, affordable housing is attainable to current and prospective Whitehall residents, and especially people of color.

**SECTION 7.** Growing the efforts of the Whitehall Community Health Action Team (CHAT), which was established to promote collaboration between community organizations to make Whitehall a healthier community for all residents, and especially people of color.

**SECTION 8.** Committing to conduct all Human Resources, vendor selection and grant management activities with a racial equity lens including all internal policies and practices such a hiring, promotions, leadership appointments and funding and being an Equal Opportunity Employer, and recruiting and fostering a diverse workforce in the overall City of Whitehall organization, and especially in the Division of Police and Division of Fire.

**SECTION 9.** Establishing alliances and securing adequate resources to successfully accomplish the above activities including but not limited to cultural competency, implicit bias crisis intervention and de-escalation law enforcement trainings and in the policies, strategies and tactics employed by our safety forces at every point in the justice spectrum.

**SECTION 10.** Building stronger alliances with organizations that have a legacy and track record of confronting racism, including with Franklin County Public Health.

**SECTION 11:** That this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure immediately necessary for the preservation of the public health, peace, safety and welfare and for the further reason it is imperative for the City of Whitehall to support Franklin County Public Health in declaring racism is a public health crisis, for only then can we move from a collection of isolated and disconnected diversity initiatives to regional inclusive, coordinated, purposeful, interdependent, and strategic actions to make progress; WHEREFORE, This Ordinance shall go into full force and effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.

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PASSED this 16 day of June, 2020.

ATTEST:

Julia A. Osoy  
Clerk of Council

[Signature]  
President of Council

APPROVED this 17 day of June, 2020.

Kim Maggard  
Mayor