

RESOLUTION NO. 20-__

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GOLETA, CALIFORNIA, CONDEMNING POLICE BRUTALITY AND DECLARING RACISM A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence defined the United States of America as a democracy based on the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and government by the consent of the people; and the 14th Amendment instilled equality of the races into the US Constitution; and

WHEREAS, from slavery to Jim Crow laws to the modern criminal justice system, black people in this country have been brutalized and dehumanized for centuries, including Santa Barbara County's first black enslaved resident, Jerry Forney; and

WHEREAS, the struggles of black people have been highlighted most recently by alarming findings that black Americans are dying from COVID-19 at a much higher rate compared to white Americans due to systemic, structural racism; and

WHEREAS, in the 21st Century, black people in America continue to live in fear of losing their lives at the hands of law enforcement or members of white supremacist groups; and

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2020, America witnessed the shooting and killing of 25-year-old Ahmaud Arbery, an unarmed black man going for a jog, by two white men in Glynn County, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, 26-year-old emergency medical worker Breonna Taylor was shot and killed by police inside her home after a "no-knock" raid; and

WHEREAS, on May 27, 2020, 46-year-old father of two, George Floyd, pleaded for his life and was ultimately killed, handcuffed and on the ground, while a police officer pushed his knee into his throat for nine minutes; and

WHEREAS, these types of acts of racism and death continue to plague our country despite many pleas for change; and

WHEREAS, the recent acts of racisms have sparked advocacy, activism and protests across the country with groups such as Black Lives Matter demanding action be taken to end this violence; and

WHEREAS, in alignment with the goal of creating a safe and welcoming community, we value human rights, peace, respect, inclusivity and equity, and recognize that we derive strength from our diversity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GOLETA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1.

The City Council is committed to making Goleta a welcoming, inclusive, and safe community for everyone. While we promote free thought and speech, we condemn racism and police brutality, hate speech, bigotry, violence and prejudice.

SECTION 2.

The City Council is committed to standing in solidarity with the people of Goleta and the Black Lives Matter movement and is dedicated to creating a community where all people can safely, freely and fully engage in our democracy without the fear of those that have sworn to protect them.

SECTION 3.

The City Council declares the issue of racism to be a public health emergency.

SECTION 4.

The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this resolution and enter it into the book of original resolutions.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this ___ day of _____ 2020.

PAULA PEROTTE
MAYOR

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DEBORAH S. LOPEZ
CITY CLERK

MICHAEL JENKINS
CITY ATTORNEY

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA) ss.
CITY OF GOLETA)

I, DEBORAH S. LOPEZ, City Clerk of the City of Goleta, California, DO
HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution No. 20-__ was duly adopted by
the City Council of the City of Goleta at a regular meeting held on the 8th day of
June, 2020, by the following roll call vote of the City Council:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

(SEAL)

DEBORAH S. LOPEZ
CITY CLERK