

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-_____
RESOLUTION OF THE MARIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SUPPORTING THE PURSUIT OF BOLD, COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS THAT PLACE
EQUITY AT THE FOREFRONT OF OUR EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE
DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACTS THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IS HAVING ON OUR MOST
MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES, LOCAL BUSINESSES AND PROPERTY OWNERS

WHEREAS, in Marin County and its jurisdictions, as with the nation, racial injustices and unequal access to housing, employment, healthcare, education, and resources have culminated in an unprecedented economic and public health crisis that disproportionately impacts people of color; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Rafael and the County stands in solidarity with our community to acknowledge and address the structural racism that exists in our nation and in all aspects of society; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted our historically marginalized and under-resourced communities of color in Marin County, and whose contributions are critical to the success of our local and regional economies as they serve as our essential workers and clients to our local businesses; and

WHEREAS, as of October 15, 2020, the Latinx population makes up 16% of the County's total population but 67% of its COVID-19 cases; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Disaster Relief Program, funded by the County, was designed to provide support to the low income residents in the County that have or are likely to have COVID-19; as of October 15, 2020, that program provided support to 689 residents, 89% of which were also primarily Spanish-speaking; and

WHEREAS, in April 2020, the County administered a rental debt relief program; within the first month the County received 1,500 requests for rental support, and paid \$3,059,359 to Marin residents in the greatest need; and

WHEREAS, the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19, demonstrated by the statistics above, have only reaffirmed the racial inequalities that exist in our County and have highlighted the urgent need to pursue bold, collaborative solutions that place equity at the forefront of our actions; and

WHEREAS, the data shows that the Latinx community in the San Rafael Canal neighborhood has been the epicenter of Marin's COVID-19 outbreak and the resulting economic impacts, yet the issue of equity and disparate impacts affects communities Countywide; and

WHEREAS, the initial efforts will be on addressing the economic and public health crises in the Canal neighborhood in San Rafael; this is a deliberate approach to provide a rapid response in the Census tracks where the COVID-19 outbreak has been the most severe; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to ensure that all Marin communities that are suffering from the disparate impacts of COVID-19, especially communities of color, will benefit from these actions.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE MARIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RESOLVES
as follows:

The Marin County Board of Supervisors, in collaboration with the City of San Rafael, affirms our commitment to:

1. Stand in solidarity with our community to acknowledge and address the structural racism that exists in our nation in all aspects of society such as health care, education, employment laws, housing, immigration, financial systems, criminal justice, prosecution and sentencing practices, and so much more. We recognize that supportive words are not enough to catalyze the healing, social change and racial equity needed to overcome decades of systemic racism. Work has been done to this end and it will continue; however, we need to do much more – and we need to do it now.
2. Take bold action for social justice and work together across our community to do our part in what is needed to both heal and to co-create solutions to address systemic racial injustice that pervade our society and community; elected officials have the perfect opportunity through their leadership positions to address the racial disparity in the County;¹ and
3. Support our historically marginalized residents in Marin County, who have been most impacted by systemic racism, disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and are also facing an urgent economic crisis of historic proportions; and
4. Protect housing for our essential workers and consider implementing additional programs that would support renters and other policies that will preserve the ability for many community members to stay living in their homes; and
5. Continue working with our community partners in a highly collaborative and expeditious manner to build longer-term solutions for recovery and resilience within our most disproportionately impacted communities and to develop and implement policies that address this crisis over the coming few months; and
6. Develop a methodology that allocates the majority of the new/supplemental Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, recently received from the State in the amount of \$1.7M, toward providing additional rental assistance and business support to our most historically marginalized communities and local businesses, which have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin held on this 3rd day of November 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS

NOES:

ABSENT:

PRESIDENT, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:

CLERK

¹ 2017, *Race Counts: Advancing Opportunities for All Californians*, www.racecounts.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Race-Counts-Launch-Report-digital.pdf.