

**RESOLUTION 2022-21 -CM**  
**A RESOLUTION DECLARING**  
**RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS**  
**IN TIPPECANOE COUNTY, INDIANA**

WHEREAS, the Social Determinants of Health, defined as the social and material factors that influence health, including employment, housing, education, health care, public safety, and food access are known to impact life-long health outcomes beginning even before birth;

WHEREAS, health equity is defined as all residents having the opportunity to attain their highest level of health;

WHEREAS, inequalities are created when barriers prevent individuals and communities from accessing these conditions and reaching their full potential;

WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association finds racism to be a barrier to health equity and has named racism a driving force of how these social determinants of health are distributed;

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics has declared that racism is a barrier to wellness that has a profound impact on the health status of children, adolescents, emerging adults, and their families and that the continued negative impact of racism on health and well-being through implicit and explicit biases, institutional structures, and interpersonal relationships is clear;

WHEREAS, The United States Office of Disease Prevention recognizes that racial discrimination negatively impacts health outcomes;

WHEREAS, the American College of Physicians has found that African-Americans in particular are at risk of being subjected to discrimination and violence against them because of their race, endangering them and even costing them their lives;

WHEREAS, the non-partisan National Partnership for Women and Families has found that in the United States, health and racism are inextricably linked, creating a harmful impact on individuals and communities of color, including unequal access to quality education, employment, livable wages healthy food, stable and affordable housing, and safe and sustainable communities;

WHEREAS, the American Psychological Association, the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Family Physicians have declared hate crimes a public health concern;

WHEREAS, the U.S. National Institutes of Health reports that multiple studies suggest that experiences of racism or discrimination raise the risk of emotional and physical health problems, including depression, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, and even death;

WHEREAS, racism operates on systemic, institutional, and interpersonal levels, all of which operate throughout time and across generations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BET IT RESOLVED, by Board of Commissioners of Tippecanoe County, Indiana, as follows:

Section 1. That the Board declares racism to be a public health crisis in Tippecanoe County, Indiana that affects all members of our community and deserves action from all levels of government and civil society.

Section 2. That the County commits to frank and open discussions on issues of race, racial disparities, and inequalities.

Section 3. That the County and its Departments will address racial inequalities by investing, as much as possible, in disadvantaged neighborhoods and those neighborhoods whose residents suffer most from racial disparities.

Section 4. That the County will review current policies and procedures for the express purpose of eradicating implicit and explicit racial bias.

Section 5. That the County should immediately access all available tools to eliminate disparities based on race, place, or identity across key indicators of success, including health, education, criminal justice, the environment, employment and the economy.

Section 6. The County will create a plan to collect data regarding racial disparities in department staffing, contracting, and all additional extensions of the County government with the purpose of incorporating racial equity into the analysis of governmental action.

Section 7. That the County will collaborate with additional key stakeholders within the community to assist them in incorporating the above-listed practices into their businesses.

THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT UPON PASSAGE.

Duly adopted this 21st day of June, 2022.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF  
TIPPECANOE COUNTY



# Tippecanoe County Health Department

1950 S 18<sup>th</sup> St  
Lafayette, IN 47905  
765-423-9221

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05/20/2022

Dear Human Relations Commission:

Thank you for attending the May 4<sup>th</sup> Board of Health meeting to present a declaration that racism is a public health crisis.

This initiative was well-received by the Board of Health and one which we welcome. A motion giving it our strongest endorsement was unanimously approved.

We look forward to working with you and others to ensure meaningful outcomes result from such a declaration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James P. Bien". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "B".

James P. Bien, MD, MPH  
President, Board of Health