



Resolution - Declaring Racism a Public Health & Safety Crisis

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Commissioner's Briefing

July 21, 2020



Outline

- Overview
- Sector – Specific Declarations
- Historical Perspective & Review of Relevant Data
- Reading of Draft Resolution
- Questions & Commissioner Feedback



Sector – Specific Declarations

- **Justice Resource Advisory Council (JRAC) - Public Safety Emergency**

- MacArthur Foundation SJC Grant – Addressing racial disparities in the jail population
- Data limitations – work to expand access
- Racial Equity Workgroup – Led the work: training, conversations, data review
- Workgroup Call to Action: Declaration of Commitment to Racial Equity in Pursuit of Safety and Justice
- JRAC - Declaring Racism a Public Safety Emergency / July 10th Adoption

- **Health & Human Services (HHS) Board - Public Health Crisis**

- 2018 Community Health Assessment & Community Health Improvement Plan
- Disparate Infant Mortality Rates & Social Determinants of Health
- COVID-19 Pandemic
- Multiple Letters of Support from the Community
- HHS Board - Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis / June 26th Adoption



Historical Perspective & Review of Relevant Data



Public Health Perspective: Outcomes



Birth Outcomes:

Black babies are 3.8 more likely to die in the first year



Poor Mental Health Days – Youth:

Nationwide Black students at greater risk for suicide



Clinical Care:

Black experience nearly a nearly 2/1 preventable hospital stays



Heart Disease

Mortality disparity of 1.63 between Black and White



Life Expectancy: Black 73.8 years and White 79.2 years



Buncombe 2018-2021CHIP Health Focus Condition



Public Health Perspective: Opportunities For Equity



Median Wage:

In the Asheville Metro Area median wage for workers of color is \$4 less than the median wage for white workers.



Education & Job Readiness

Percent with an AA degree or higher: Black 20%, White 45%, Latinx 41%, Asian 45%



Working Poor:

150-200% FPL Black 29%, Latinx 45%, White 16%,



Individual Income Gains with Racial Equity:

With racial equity in income in 2015, average annual income would have been 14,283 higher for the Black population and 13,786 higher for the Latino population.



GDP Gains with Racial Equity:

Our economy would be \$0.91 billion larger if there had been no racial gaps in income.



Disparities in Criminal Justice System

In 2019, black people...

- represented 20% of the bookings into the detention facility;
- on average those in pretrial custody were released 4 days longer than whites; and
- represented 25% of the local jail population.

In 2020*, black people...

- represented 20% of the bookings into the detention facility;
- on average those in pretrial custody were released 4 days longer than whites; and
- represented 26% of the local jail population.

*(January-July)

Pre/Post COVID:

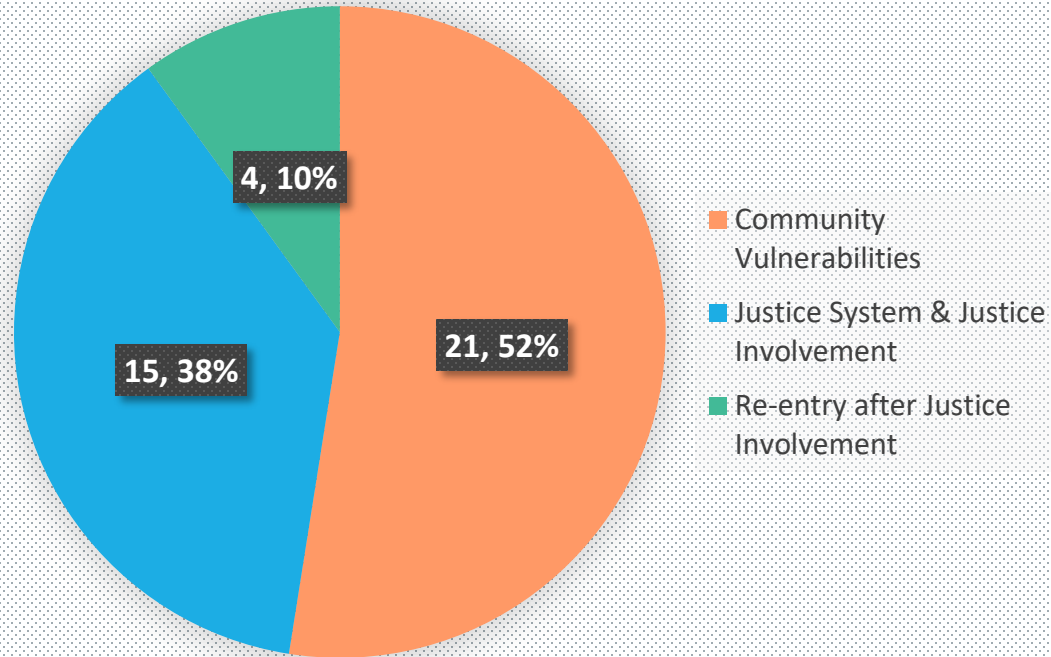
- Overall reduction in local average daily population (ADP) from 423 in February to 274 in June – 35% reduction
- Black local ADP reduced from 98 in February to 80 in June – 18% reduction while, white local ADP reduced from 320 in February to 192 in June – 40% reduction



Community Voices for Justice System Change

Let's Talk Justice Listening Session

Problem Area Themes



Priorities	Solution(s)	Theme
Police Mindset and Behavior	Education and Training of Officers (Racial Equity and Resiliency) Policy changes and better practices within Law Enforcement Departments (Accountability)	Community vulnerabilities
Different treatment based on race or wealth	Create incentives to lower barriers in housing, education, employment	Community vulnerabilities
Roadblocks to restoring life	Incentives driving solutions (e.g. Small businesses hire ex-offenders, community members craft solutions) Divert public monies (like fees and penalties) into solutions and link with corporate dollars.	Re-entry after Justice involvement



Reading of Draft Resolution



Questions & Commissioner Feedback



Appendix – For Reference

Appendix A: [Education Gap Presentation to BOCC by Brad Watt & Rusty Mau – June 4, 2019](#)

Appendix B: [Community Health Improvement Plan Update to BOCC by Zo Mpofu – December 3, 2019](#)

Appendix C: [Racial Equity Workgroup – Equity Data Update to JRAC by LeAnn Melton – January 10, 2020](#)

