

**City Council Resolution – National Public Health Week (April 5-11, 2021)**

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of the City Council that National Public Health Week, organized by the American Public Health Association, is celebrated across the country from April 5–11 with a focus on creating a better, more inclusive, more just world through public health; and

WHEREAS: The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed longstanding health inequities that have taken a devastating toll on Black, Latinx, and other vulnerable populations in Cambridge and the nation. The global health crisis has brought into crystalline focus that people with fewer societal advantages, such as access to quality education, higher-paying jobs, safe housing and neighborhoods, and quality medical care, bear a disproportionate burden of disease; and

WHEREAS; Cambridge is a city with a deep public commitment to social justice that values its racially and ethnically diverse population, and despite efforts to pursue equitable policies, the data indicates that continued health disparities based on race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status persist in the City as they do nationally; and

WHEREAS: In Cambridge, the cumulative COVID-19 infection rate since the beginning of the pandemic when compared to White residents is 2.5 times higher among Black residents, 2.9 times higher among Latinx residents, and 8 times higher among residents identifying as “Other,” a category that includes residents who are multiracial or who reported nationality in lieu of a listed category. While the death rates of Black, and Latinx residents are slightly above those of White residents, the death rate of residents identifying as “Other” is 3.3 times that of White residents; and

WHEREAS: In Cambridge, we have established Citywide collaborations and innovations throughout the pandemic to address and mitigate these inequities, with particular focus in neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by illness and death due to COVID-19, including: the provision of universal 7 day/week COVID-19 testing; formation of the Cambridge Pandemic Collaborative -- comprised of public and private partners -- to assist with testing and vaccine administration; implementation of Wastewater surveillance as an early warning system; and, establishment of the Cambridge Community Corps to provide outreach and support to hard-to-reach and vulnerable communities; and, as a demonstration that our outreach efforts have been successful,

Cambridge is currently outpacing the state in vaccinating Black and Hispanic residents; and

WHEREAS: In fall 2020, the Cambridge Public Health Department released the second edition of the *Cambridge Community Health Assessment*, which summarizes available data on demographics, physical and mental health, safety and violence, food access, housing, transportation, racism and discrimination, and other issues; and

WHEREAS: Based on assessment findings, community stakeholders and health department staff identified three priorities for the City's new *Community Health Improvement Plan*: community and social resilience; healthy eating and active living; and mental health, with cross-cutting themes of health equity and racism as assured by Equity Champions.

WHEREAS: In addition to work set forth in the Community Health Improvement Plan, the Cambridge Public Health Department -- in partnership with the Department of Human Service Programs, the Community Development Department and any other appropriate City department -- shall conduct ongoing and enhanced analysis using all available data to understand the complexity of the societal, environmental, and behavioral factors that contribute to the impact of racism on access to those resources that promote good health, including good jobs, access to healthy and affordable food and housing, equitable transportation options, and excellent public education.

RESOLVED: That the City Council does hereby go on record as proclaiming April 5–11, 2021 as Cambridge Public Health Week in appreciation of the extensive work on the part of the public and private sectors in the city to create a better, more inclusive, more just community; and

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Claude A. Jacob, Chief Public Health Officer at the Cambridge Public Health Department on behalf of the entire City Council.