

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



PUBLIC COMMENT:

16.7

During the oral communication section of the agenda for Tuesday, June 30, 2020, Hannah spoke asking the board to agendize an item declaring racism a public health crisis.

**ATTACHMENTS FILED WITH
CLERK OF THE BOARD**

**AGENDA NO.
16.7**



TOGETHER, *Everybody Counts!*



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From: HANA ABDIRAHMAN <hanajabdi@g.ucla.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 10:38 AM
To: COB <COB@RIVCO.ORG>
Subject: Petition to declare racism a public health crisis

Hello,

I represent the chapter of White Coats for Black Lives at the University of Riverside School of Medicine. I would like the board to agendize declaring racism a public health crisis in Riverside county. Please see the attached statement of support that has been signed by medical students, UCRSOM faculty, medical student associations as well as community organizations.

Best,
Hana A.

Maxwell, Sue

From: Maxwell, Sue
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 7:54 AM
To: George Johnson (GAJohnson@RIVCO.ORG); Young, Alisa; District 4 Supervisor V. Manuel Perez (District4@RIVCO.ORG); District2; District3; District5; Supervisor Jeffries - 1st District (district1@rivco.org)
Subject: June 30 2020 Item16 Public Comment - Petition to declare racism a public health crisis (Hana Abdirahman)
Attachments: Racism is a Public Health Crisis .pdf

Good morning,

Forwarding email and attachment for your review.

Respectfully,

Sue Maxwell

Board Assistant
Riverside County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
(951) 955-1069 Fax (951) 955-1071
cob@rivco.org
website: <http://rivcocob.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/RivCoCOB/>



TOGETHER, *Everybody Counts!*



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From: COB
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 7:48 AM
To: 'HANA ABDIRAHMAN' <hanajabdi@g.ucla.edu>
Subject: Petition to declare racism a public health crisis (Hana Abdirahman)

Greetings,

The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is in receipt of your email.

Sincerely,

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
4080 Lemon Street, 1st Floor, Room 127
Riverside, CA 92501
(951) 955-1060 Fax (951) 955-1071
Mail Stop #1010
cob@rivco.org
website: <http://rivcocob.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/RivCoCOB/>

To: Riverside County Board of Supervisors
From: University of California, Riverside Medical Students and Faculty
Riverside Community Members and Organizations

As we prepare for our entry into the medical field, we watch as racial inequities continue to divide our country. At the center of this divide is the fight for human life. As future medical professionals, we will speak out against all forms of abuse that adversely affect the mental and physical health of American residents. In particular, we are horrified by the treatment of Black residents in this country by the very police officers who swore to protect and serve their communities. Not only do we recognize racism's contribution to the disproportionate criminalization and abuse of our Black communities, but as aspiring health professionals we understand how it affects the health outcomes for Black Americans. This is why we are asking the County of Riverside to declare racism a public health crisis, effective immediately.

From the earliest stages of life, Black Americans experience inequality in healthcare. In 2019, Dr. Jeffery Horbar et al. published a study finding that Neonatal Intensive Care Units throughout the United States are segregated by race and ethnicity. Furthermore, they report that Black preterm infants receive care at lower quality NICUs than other racial minorities, which they believe contributes to the high mortality rate of Black preterm babies. This lack of access to adequate healthcare continues throughout the life of Black Americans. Jha et al. finds that Black elderly patients receive care at hospitals with low quality markers, and in turn have high mortality rates for conditions such as acute myocardial infarction and pneumonia. Throughout their lives, Black Americans experience higher rates of obesity and hypertension. Black expectant mothers also have 3 to 4 times higher rates of mortality during childbirth when compared to White expectant mothers. Finally — and most recently— the COVID-19 pandemic has had a greater impact on Black communities across the United States than on any other racial or ethnic group.

The County of Riverside is no exception to this reality. Although Riverside County and the State have taken steps to address public health disparities, it is time we face this issue head on. We ask that local entities join the American Public Health Association by declaring racism a public health crisis. Similar measures have been accomplished in Columbus, Milwaukee and is now a stance taken by our neighboring county of San Bernardino as of June 9th, 2020. We believe this will send a clear and direct message to all public health officials and healthcare providers to strengthen collaboration and dialogue to improve health outcomes for the Black community as well as other racial and ethnic minorities.

As future physicians, we are invested in what medicine accomplishes and are committed to ensuring that its practice benefits all residents of this country equitably. We are on this career path to improve healthcare outcomes for our communities and it would be irresponsible for us to stand idly while Black residents continue to be targeted by systematic violence and health care

6/30/20 16

inequity. Our ultimate goal is to promote a safe and healthy environment for all residents, but for that to be accomplished, we must first declare racism a public health crisis.

References

Horbar JD, Edwards EM, Greenberg LT, et al. Racial segregation and inequality in neonatal intensive care unit care for very low-birth-weight and very preterm infants [published online March 25, 2019]. *JAMA Pediatr*. Doi:[10.1001/jamapediatrics.2019.0241](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapediatrics.2019.0241)

Jha AK, Orav EJ, Epstein AM. Low-quality, high-cost hospitals, mainly in south, care for sharply higher shares of elderly black, Hispanic, and Medicaid patients. *Health Aff (Millwood)*. 2011;30(10):1904-1911. doi:[10.1377/hlthaff.2011.0027](https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2011.0027)

Riverside County Medical Student Signatures

Hana Abdirahman
Amanda Lee
Arthur Dewayne Love III
Daniel Tsai
Garrick Johnson
Moices Uribe
Jesus Victor Orozco Jr
Menbere Awraris Dejenie
Omar Abbas
Olivia Vukceovich
Allen Partono
Cedric Ahegbebu
Priya Rajan
Somiya Maheshwari
Carina Bell
Catherine Banh
Sarah Fraz
Erica Li
Cara Cusi
Yasmine Suliman
Röselyn Tran
Wonder Edem
Charity Hall
Atisa Paudel
Alfonso Parocua
Isaac Ngo
Karimi Gikura
Marilyn Corrales
Natalie Albasha
Elizabeth Celaya
Lauren Lopez
Zahab Qazi
Jason Ballon
Stephanie Marin
Brook Yirgu
Shruti Amin
Mandy Lai
Violeta Covarrubias
Omar Venegas
Sheldon Borson
Hania Shahin

Vivek Bhatt
Skyler Harrison
Kishan Patel
Lavinia Mitroi
Leo Estrada
Abigail Burr
Noelle Coen
Crystal Witherspoon
Perla Saldivar
Secilia Salem

UCR School of Medicine Faculty and Staff

Emma Simmons, MD, MPH
Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs, UCR School of Medicine

Sunny Nakae, PhD
Associate Dean, UCR School of Medicine Student Affairs

Mark Wolfson, PhD
Professor, UCR School of Medicine
Chair, UCR Department of Social Medicine, Population, and Public Health
Director, UCR School of Medicine Center for Health Communities

Ann Cheney, PhD
Assistant Professor, UCR School of Medicine
Director, Coachella Valley Free Clinic

Andrew Subica, PhD
Assistant Professor, UCR School of Medicine

Nathan McLaughlin, MD
Associate Clinical Professor
UCR Department of Family Medicine

Michelle C. Burroughs, MPH
Deputy Director, UCR School of Medicine Center for Healthy Communities

Byron Ford, PhD
Professor, UCR School of Medicine
Director, Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences

Mary E. White

UCR Principal HR Policy & Communication Analyst, Human Resources

Carla P. Urmeneta, MBA
Financial Analyst, UCR School of Medicine Center for Healthy Communities

Brandon Brown
Associate Professor
UCR School of Medicine

Priya Batra, MD, MS
Adjunct Assistant Professor, UCR School of Medicine

Shaleta Sultan-Smith
Executive Administrative Specialist, UCR School of Medicine

Rebeca Racataian-Gavan, MD
UCR School of Medicine Faculty

UCR Faculty/Staff

Charlie Scruggs, MA
Director, Health Professions Advising Center
Undergraduate Education
University of California, Riverside

Lisa Des Jardins, MSc
Engaged Learning Programs Coordinator
Office of Student Engagement, Undergraduate Education

Devon Sakamoto, MPH
Director, The Well
Student Health, Counseling & Wellness Services

Community Health Professionals

Nicole Dumaguindin, MS Global Medicine
Filipino Community Mental Health Educator/Promoter

Community Organization Signatures

The Center for Healthy Communities at UCR SOM
TODEC Legal Center
Inland Equity Partnership
Coachella Valley Immigrant Dignity Coalition
League of United Latin American Citizens Riverside Council 3190
Black Lives Matter Inland Empire
Riverside Mutual Aid Network
UCR Healthy Campus
ACLU of Southern California
Riverside All of Us or None
Starting Over, Inc
NAACP - Riverside
Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice
African American Health Coalition
Warehouse Workers Resource Center
Riverside Coalition for Police Accountability

Medical Student Organization Signatures

Student National Medical Association at UCR SOM
Medical Students for Immigrant Justice at UCR SOM
Muslim Medical Student Association at UCR SOM
American Medical Women's Association at UCR SOM
Pediatrics Interest Group at UCR SOM
Psychiatry Interest Group at UCR SOM
OBGYN Interest Group at UCR SOM
Latino Medical Student Association at UCR SOM
Women in Surgery Interest Group at UCR SOM
Family and Preventive Medicine Interest Group at UCR SOM
Bhagat Puran Singh Health Initiative at UCR SOM
Medical Students for Choice at UCR SOM
LGBT+ Health Interest Group at UCR SOM
Emergency Medicine Interest Group at UCR SOM
Medical Students for Choice at UCR SOM
Organized Medicine Interest Group at UCR SOM
Asian Pacific American Medical Students Association at UCR SOM
Global Health Interest Group at UCR SOM
Dermatology Interest Group at UCR SOM