

Introduced by Treece Council Bill No. R 85-20

A RESOLUTION

reaffirming the commitment of the City to values of equity, fairness, inclusion and justice in the provision of city services in the wake of COVID-19.

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted the Principles of Community in 2018 to affirm its commitment to its ongoing efforts to increase access and inclusion and create a community that nurtures learning and growth for all persons; and

WHEREAS, the Principles of Community stated the ongoing commitment of the City Council, on behalf of the citizens of the City of Columbia, to practice the following Principles of Community:

- We affirm the inherent dignity and value of every person and strive to maintain a climate for work and learning based on mutual respect and understanding.
- We affirm the right of each person to express thoughts and opinions freely. We encourage open expression within a climate of civility, sensitivity, and mutual respect.
- We affirm the value of human diversity because it enriches our lives and our organizations. We acknowledge and respect our differences while affirming our common humanity.
- We reject all forms of prejudice and discrimination, including those based on age, color, diverse ability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, and veteran status. We take individual and collective responsibility for helping to eliminate bias, and discrimination and for increasing our own understanding of these issues through education, training, and interaction with others.
- We pledge our collective commitment to incorporate these principles into the City of Columbia mission.

WHEREAS, the global pandemic COVID-19 has significantly impacted the health, social and economic fabric of the City of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, the disproportionate impact of the novel coronavirus has been on communities of color; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia is committed to equity, fairness, and justice, in protecting its most vulnerable residents; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to renew its commitment to the Principles of Community and its commitment to equity and inclusion and creation of a community that nurtures learning and growth for all persons.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. This resolution confirms the commitment of the City of Columbia to the following:

- The City reaffirms that it strongly believes in and stands for values of inclusion, equity and justice for every person.
- The City will dedicate its resources, platforms, political will and authority to identifying and addressing the ways that the novel coronavirus may exacerbate existing inequities in the community.
- The City will center its community responses to the COVID-19 global pandemic in a manner which will promote racial equity.
- The City pledges to lift up the medical and social needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized and demonstrate how centering the needs of vulnerable and marginalized persons ensures the safety and health of all persons.
- The City is committed to not using fear to scapegoat persons or groups perceived to be different and setting a tone that will reject any such tendency throughout the community.
- The City affirms its commitment to reflect the values set forth herein in all local government institutions and work to make services and programs accessible and open to all individuals.

SECTION 2. This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.


ADOPTED this 16th day of July, 2020.

ATTEST:


City Clerk Deputy City Clerk


Mayor and Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


City Counselor