



City of Malden

Malden City Hall
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Master

File Number: 556-21

File ID: 556-21

Type: Resolution

Status: Passed

Version: 1

Reference:

In Control: City Council

Department:

Cost:

File Created: 12/02/2021

File Name:

Final Action: 12/07/2021

Title: Resolve: That the Malden City Council acknowledges the detrimental impact that racism has on our residents and community and will establish a Racial Equity Commission to further examine the consequences of racism on public health and propose recommendations for a Racial Equity Plan for the City of Malden.

WHEREAS the 2020 Decennial Census estimates that over 60% of all Malden residents identify as Black, Asian and Pacific Islander, Hispanic, American Indian or multiracial

WHEREAS over 43% of residents are unable to effectively communicate in English which has an impact on their abilities to live healthy and fulfilling lives

WHEREAS last year MHS students and staff issued a petition asking the city to support initiatives and spaces to hold dialogue around issues related to race and instances of racism in their school

WHEREAS Mayor Gary Christenson declared that racism is a public health crisis in the City of Malden

WHEREAS the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office has acknowledged the disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on residents of color and commissioned a report to study racial justice and health equity

WHEREAS racism and racial inequities can cause undue harm to residents' wellbeing, mental health, access to healthcare, jobs, housing, educational attainment, and economic mobility

BE IT RESOLVED that the Malden City Council

- I. Supports the establishment of an ad-hoc Racial Equity Commission who--over the course of 18 months--will develop surveys, conduct focus groups, conduct research and interviews with impacted community members, leaders, and organizations to document the impacts of racism and discrimination, study language access, healthcare, mental health and wellbeing; employment and economic mobility, and educational needs of the city at the municipal level, in the business community, nonprofit and faith-based communities, schools, and beyond
- II. Recommends that the Commission is Chaired by the Mayor's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator and further established as follows: Mayor appoints

- 1 member, the the Malden City Council appoints 2 members, that the School Committee appoint 1 member from the student body of MPS, and that the these 5 members nominate 2 additional members.
- III. Desires that the composition of the commission should be as proportionate as possible with the racial demographics of the city as reported by the 2020 US Decennial Census
- IV. Will provide updates to the Mayor and City Council at 6 and 12 month intervals during a public meeting, to be followed by a final report and presentation 18 months after commencement of start of the work.

Internal Notes:**Code Sections:****Agenda Date:** 12/07/2021**Indexes:****Agenda Number:**

Sponsors: Jadeane Sica, Stephen Winslow, Craig Spadafora, Amanda Linehan, Peg Crowe, Deborah DeMaria, Neal Anderson, Paul Condon and Barbara Murphy

Enactment Date: 12/07/2021**Attachments:****Enactment Number:** RES 13-151**Contact:****Hearing Date:****Drafter:****Effective Date:****Related Files:****History of Legislative File**

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	City Council	12/07/2021	passed as amended				Pass
<p>Action Text: A motion was made by Councillor Sica, seconded by Councillor Murphy, that the Resolution be passed as amended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.</p> <p>Notes: <i>Councillor Sica , the sponsor of the paper spoke on the Resolve. Councillor Sica said that she had met with her election opponent Nate Kupal after the election and discussed making a joint statement. They were unable to make a joint statement and Councillor Sica issued a statement of her own. Mr. Kupal did speak at Public Comment earlier and suggested 2 amendments 1) hiring a DEI consultant and allow the commission members to choose the chairperson.</i></p> <p><i>Councillor Linehan suggested to have more than 1 youth member.</i></p> <p><i>Councillor Winslow spoke of the need to have dialogue and there has to be give and take with forgiveness being very important. Councillor Winslow also suggested the DEI Coordinator can convene the commission but doesn't have to be the chair.</i></p>							

Councillor Crowe thanked Councillor Sica and is in support.

Councillor Spadafora spoke on both resolves tonight and stated whatever we do we need to have outside expertise to assist on both.

Councillor DeMaria suggested to have MS Larochelle at next week's Committee of the Whole to speak on the two resolves.

Councillor Murphy said we should pass the Resolve as we passed the previous Resolve

Council President Anderson said we need to move on this tonight and he was very encouraged from what he was hearing from everyone and we need to put the money where our mouth is. Councillor Sica made a motion to amend the Resolve to include 4 items, Councillor Murphy seconded the motion.

- 1) hire a DEI Consultant*
- 2) the Commission members will decide the chair*
- 3) add a second youth member*
- 4) DEI Coordinator will convene the Commission but doesn't have to chair*

It was so voted: Condon (y), Crowe (y), DeMaria (y), Linehan (y), Murphy (y), O'Malley (y), Sica (y), Spadafora (y), Winslow (y), Anderson (y)

Text of Legislative File 556-21

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