

AMENDMENT 2 TO RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A RACIAL EQUITY STEERING COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP A COMMUNITY VISION STATEMENT AND ACCOMPANYING INITIAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPONSE TO SYSTEMIC INEQUITIES (RESOLVE 1-FY21)

SPONSORED BY COUNCILOR BELINDA RAY

RE: NARROWING THE CHARGE AND THE TIMELINE OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE WHILE COMMITTING TO EXAMINING ALL CITY SYSTEMS, POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES IN ORDER TO ERADICATE SYSTEMIC RACISM

WHEREAS, during its years as both a part of the state of Massachusetts and before that as a colonial territory of Great Britain, and continuing in the first 45 years of statehood, the State of Maine was governed by rules that allowed slavery, and it had residents who were slave owners, slave traders and slaves; and

...

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Mayor Snyder and members of the Portland City Council hereby establish a Racial Equity Steering Committee to ~~develop a community vision statement regarding institutional racism and structural inequities; examine City systems, policies, and procedures~~ and make recommendations to address and respond to ~~systems, policies and procedures in need of Council review and action~~ systemic racism; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Racial Equity Steering Committee will be charged with: ~~drafting a Vision Statement regarding Portland's community vision to address institutional racism and structural inequities;~~ reviewing the City's approach to public safety, including but not limited to:

1. an examination of the ever expanding role we, as a City, have asked the police to play in our community—ranging from responding to noise complaints, traffic violations, and violent crime to conducting wellness checks and responding to behavioral health calls and drug overdoses—and whether we have provided them with the appropriate resources to accomplish this work;
2. the way in which the City interacts with area agencies, organizations, and non-profits in the name of public safety and how these partnerships can best work to enhance public safety in the City; and
3. ~~and~~ recommending changes, ~~if~~ as necessary, to various policies, structures, and procedures related to public safety that may disproportionately impact Black people and other persons of color with the specific aim of improving community relations, establishing mutual trust and respect, and rooting out and ending systemic racism; including, but not limited to, policies regarding healthcare, employment, homelessness, public safety, and housing. The Steering Committee will also be charged with recommending how Juneteenth should be recognized within Portland; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in addition to the Racial Equity Steering Committee, the Mayor, with input from the City Council, will appoint a working group of not more than three members to select a neutral convener to begin the planning for, and execution of a

series of Community Conversations designed to illuminate issues of systemic racism in Portland, and engage community members in a robust dialogue to educate, inform, and foster positive change. These Community Conversations will inform the work and recommendations of the Racial Equity Steering Committee, and will be convened and facilitated by a neutral party in collaboration with local groups, organizations, and individuals, and be supported with funding from the City; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Racial Equity Steering Committee will consist of no fewer than 9 members and no more than 13 members, all of which will be appointed by the Mayor, with input from the City Council, and shall include a range of stakeholders from the Portland community ~~including, but not limited to, such as representatives representation~~ from the City Council, Portland Public Schools, public safety, housing, healthcare, employment, education, homelessness, and community organizers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Racial Equity Steering Committee will elect leadership from among its membership, either a Chair or Co-Chairs, who will develop meeting agendas, and who will work closely with an independent facilitator paid for by the City of Portland, and a member of City staff assigned by the City Manager; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Racial Equity Steering Committee will meet over the course of ~~six (6)~~ five (5) months, from September 2020 until January 2021 ~~February 2021~~, and will submit their final written report and recommendations to the City Council regarding the ways in which city government should address and respond to institutional racism and structural inequities. The final report shall be submitted to the City Council in the form of a communication on or before January 22, 2021 ~~March 15, 2021~~; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that while the Council has charged the Racial Equity Steering Committee to initially focus on the realm of public safety, it is the intention of the Council to comprehensively examine other City systems, policies, and structures as we seek to eradicate institutional racism and bias across all facets of our municipal government, either through a continuation of the work of the Racial Equity Steering Committee after it completes the work of its first charge, the appointment of additional task forces or steering committees, the hiring of consultants or City staff, or other appropriate means; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby requests that the Portland Public Art Committee, which is responsible for administering the Public Art Program collection, and reviewing potential gifts of art to the city's collection according the Guidelines for the Public Art Ordinance, engage in a public process in order to determine the best way(s) in which to respond to community offers of public art in support of racial equity either through a mural, banner or other form of public art within the City of Portland.