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Filed: 03-02-21

Sponsored by: City Council

COUNCIL BILL 2021- 052 RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION

1 CREATING the Mayor’s Initiative on Equity and Equality; setting the charge for said
2 Initiative; and establishing its membership.
3
4

5 WHEREAS, the actions on May 25, 2020, by police officers in Minneapolis,
6 Minnesota, that caused the death of George Floyd, were intolerable and caused
7 Springfield city leaders to reflect upon the dignity of all persons, the value of life and,
8 especially, our responsibility as a local government; and
9

10 WHEREAS, the City of Springfield is focusing on addressing the issues of racism
11 and promotion of diversity, equity, and inclusion; and
12

13 WHEREAS, this catalyst event compelled Springfield, like many communities
14 around the country, to reflect and to commit to positive and needed change and to
15 commit with our words and actions; and
16

17 WHEREAS, City Council unanimously passed formal Resolution 10510 on June
18 1, 2020, authored by City Manager Jason Gage, who acknowledged and highlighted the
19 situation and served as a catalyst for community action; and
20

21 WHEREAS, the Springfield Police Department took immediate action and
22 published a website called “Where We Stand” detailing the policies, procedures, and
23 practices of our local police force; and
24

25 WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council believe it is a top priority in our
26 community to address systemic racism and prejudice; and
27

28 WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council believe that it is beneficial to all
29 Springfieldians, including those who live here, those who visit, and those who do
30 business here, to ensure an equitable environment that celebrates diversity and
31 inclusion; and
32

33 WHEREAS, it is of the utmost importance to develop guiding principles to
34 improve equitable access to opportunities, recognizing the inherent dignity, value, and

35 worth of each individual.

36
37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
38 SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI, as follows, that:

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40 Section 1 – City Council hereby affirms the creation of the Mayor’s Initiative on
41 Equity and Equality. The Initiative is charged with developing guiding principles to
42 improve equitable access to opportunities in our community, recognizing the inherent
43 dignity, value and worth of each individual.

44
45 Section 2 – The Initiative will complete its work considering the five pillars of
46 change:

- 47
- 48 1) Dialogue and Understanding
- 49
- 50 2) Cultural Consciousness
- 51
- 52 3) Advocacy and Partnerships
- 53
- 54 4) Structural and Systemic Barriers
- 55
- 56 5) Personal and Organizational Accountability
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58 Section 3 – City Council determines that it is in the interest of the City regarding
59 these important inter-local matters to establish the Initiative with eighteen members. The
60 Initiative will include the following members: Co-Chair Pastor Saehee Duran, Co-Chair
61 Doug Neff, Rita Baron, Rabbi Barbara Block, Pastor Chantha Chhim, Dr. Justin Clark,
62 Reverend Adrienne Denson-Ewell, Christian Lewis, Christa Moss, John Oke-Thomas,
63 Mike Powers, Francine Pratt, Pastor Bob Roberts, Robin Robeson, Jeff Schrag, Jeanne
64 Skahan, Dr. Carol Taylor, and Dr. Shurita Thomas-Tate.

65
66 Section 4 – The term of the Initiative shall be from the date of the passage of this
67 Resolution until March 31, 2022. The Initiative shall present a written report of the
68 guiding principles it develops to the full City Council no later than March 31, 2022.

69
70 Section 5 – This Resolution shall be in effect from and after passage.

71
72 Passed at meeting: _____

73
74
75 _____
76 Mayor

77
78 Attest: _____, City Clerk

79
80 Filed as Resolution: _____

81
82

83 Approved as to form: Rhonda Lewsader, City Attorney
84
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86 Approved for Council action: Jason A. Hage, City Manager

EXPLANATION TO COUNCIL BILL 2021-052

FILED 03-02-21

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Department of Public Information & Civic Engagement;
City Clerk's Office

PURPOSE: Recognizing the creation of the Mayor's Initiative on Equity and Equality

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The actions on May 25, 2020, by police officers in Minneapolis, Minnesota, that caused the death of George Floyd were intolerable and caused Springfield city leaders to reflect upon the dignity of all persons, the value of life and especially - our responsibility as a local government. The City of Springfield is focusing on addressing the issues of racism and promotion of diversity, equity and this catalyst event compelled Springfield, like many communities around the country, to reflect and to commit to positive and needed change and to commit with our words and actions.

Resolution 10510 passed by City Council on June 1, 2020, was authored by City Manager Jason Gage, who acknowledged and highlighted the situation that served as a catalyst for community action. Springfield Police Department took immediate action and published a website called "Where We Stand" detailing the policies, procedures, and practices of our local police force.

The Mayor and City Council believe it is a top priority in our community to address systemic racism and prejudice; and that doing so is beneficial to ALL Springfieldians, including those who live here, those who visit and those who do business here, to ensure an equitable environment that celebrates diversity, equity and inclusion.

This resolution creates the Mayor's Initiative on Equity and Equality and charges the 18-member group to meet for the course of one year and to develop guiding principles to improve equitable access to opportunities, recognizing the inherent dignity, value and worth of each individual. The group is charged with doing so considering the following five pillars of change:

- Dialogue and Understanding
- Cultural Consciousness
- Advocacy and Partnerships
- Structural and Systemic Barriers
- Personal and Organizational Accountability

The members include:

Co-Chair Pastor Saehee Duran

Co-Chair Doug Neff

Rita Baron

Rabbi Barbara Block

Pastor Chantha Chhim

Dr. Justin Clark

Rev. Adrienne Denson-Ewell

Christian Lewis

Christa Moss

John Oke-Thomas

Mike Powers

Francine Pratt

Pastor Bob Roberts

Robin Robeson

Jeff Schrag

Jeanne Skahan

Carol Taylor

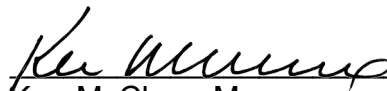
Dr. Shurita Thomas-Tate

Submitted and recommended by:

Approved by:



Cora Scott, Director of Public Information & Civic Engagement



Ken McClure, Mayor