

RESOLUTION No. 2020-07-6576

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
SIGNAL HILL, CALIFORNIA, STANDING UP FOR
EQUALITY AND AGAINST SYSTEMIC RACISM**

WHEREAS, we believe the following to be the true and self-evident; and

WHEREAS, we believe in the equitable treatment of people of all races, ethnicities, and socioeconomic status with respect to the development, adoption, implementation and enforcement of laws, regulations, policies and opportunities; and

WHEREAS, on May 25, 2020, Mr. George Floyd, a Black man, died, face down, under the knee of a White police officer in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the recorded footage shows an appalling sequence of events that is inconsistent and contrary to everything that decent human beings believe to be deemed humane treatment of one another; and

WHEREAS, reactions to the unjust death of Mr. Floyd have been swift and varied as the nation continues to witness Black people suffering from the effects of systemic racism; and

WHEREAS, one instance of an unjust death is one too many and yet there are innumerable unjust deaths of Black people throughout the history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the United States was founded on the construct of racism and dehumanization of the "other" as a way of life; and

WHEREAS, Jim Crow laws, redlining and racially restrictive real estate covenants were instituted and sanctioned by local, state, and federal governments to marginalize Black individuals; and

WHEREAS, cities and communities reflect an accumulation of actions and decisions that have transpired over time; and

WHEREAS, discrimination is behavior that treats people unequally because of their group memberships; and

WHEREAS, discriminatory treatment, ranging from micro-aggressions to hate crimes continue to plague cities in the United States; and

WHEREAS, we cannot proclaim race is meaningless, yet continue to be deeply divided by race; and

WHEREAS, anti-Blackness, which voids Black people of value while systematically marginalizing Black people leads to overt racism and covert structural and systemic racism which denies equitable treatment and opportunity to Black people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, this structure is held in place by the status quo, anti-Black policies, and historically racist institutions; and

WHEREAS, to be silent is to be complicit, and every one of us has a duty to our communities, and to each other to speak out against systemic racism; and

WHEREAS, Signal Hill has a troubled past with racially based hate and domestic terrorism, including a history of Klu Klux Klan rallies on the hill; and

WHEREAS, Ron Settles, an African American college student, was found hung in the Signal Hill City Jail in the 1980's; and

WHEREAS, many changes were made in the City and the City's Police

Department as a result of this incident; and

WHEREAS, Signal Hill's Administration and staff are sensitive to, and knowledgeable about, the needs of the continually changing and diverse community; and

WHEREAS, Signal Hill cannot effectively service its community without addressing, acknowledging and confronting its own and the nation's history of systemic racism of people of color, particularly Black Americans; and

WHEREAS, diversity is a significant strength which the City desires and fosters; and

WHEREAS, Signal Hill's Non-Discrimination in Employment supports the City's mission by prohibiting employees from discriminating against or harassing any other employee or job applicant on the basis of the person's actual or perceived race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sex or sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, we believe when you know better you should do better.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Signal Hill affirms that it has a responsibility to provide and support resources to challenge and resist anti-Blackness, systemic racism, and the role that we and our communities play in upholding systems of systemic racism.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Signal Hill as follows:

Section 1. That the City Council of the City of Signal Hill believes in **Liberty** and **Justice** for **All**.

Section 2. That Signal Hill affirms its commitment to foster a culture in which **ALL** members of the community, (1) feel safe, respected and valued; (2) are invited to participate fully, sharing their unique gifts, talents and backgrounds; (3) increasingly recognize the value of perspectives that differ from their own; and (4) understand that diversity and inclusion are key priorities of the City's success.

Section 3. That the Signal Hill City Council calls upon all elected, appointed and Administrative staff, the residents and business community to come together to identify, assess, revise, and eliminate areas that promote or uphold anti-Blackness, systemic racism, and the role that we and our communities play in upholding systems of systemic racism.

Section 4. That the responsibility falls on each one of us, regardless of the color of our skin or socioeconomic status, to work together to create a "new normal" in which the legacy of bigotry and unequal treatment no longer infects our institutions, systems, and values.

Section 5. That City of Signal Hill shall create a Diversity Coalition Committee to examine the current policies as it relates to city policing, city operations and city-related events.


Section 6. That "Black Lives Matter."

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council this 14th day of July 2020.



ROBERT D. COPELAND
MAYOR

ATTEST:



CARMEN R. BROOKS
CITY CLERK
Deputy

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES) ss.
CITY OF SIGNAL HILL)

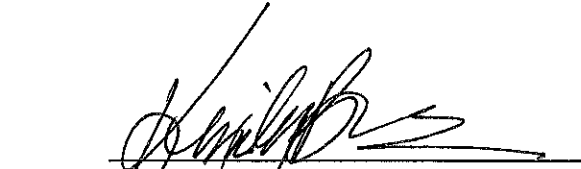
I, CARMEN R. BROOKS, City Clerk of the City of Signal Hill, California, hereby certify that Resolution No. 2020-07-6576 was adopted by the City Council of the City of Signal Hill at a regular meeting held on the 14th day of July 2020, and that the same was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: MAYOR ROBERT D. COPELAND, VICE MAYOR
TINA L. HANSEN, COUNCIL MEMBERS KEIR
JONES, EDWARD H.J. WILSON, LORI Y. WOODS

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE


CARMEN R. BROOKS
Deputy CITY CLERK