

AGENDA MATERIAL

DATE 12-1-20 ITEM NO. 9



MAYOR
BOB TESO

VICE MAYOR
HERMAN LOPEZ

ACTING MAYOR
AKANNI OYEBOLA

COUNCIL MEMBERS
PAUL DIAZ
RITA ROGERS
ANITA ROMERO
ROBERT ROMERO

INTERIM CITY MANAGER
VERONICA B. MORENO

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December 1, 2020

Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

We support and ask that you vote in favor of the "Resolution Declaring Racial and Ethnic Health Inequities and Income inequality a Public Health Crisis," which is on the Pima County Board of Supervisors agenda on December 1, 2020. While we know COVID 19 pandemic did not cause these inequities, they have brought to the attention of the greater public the disparities that have long been present in our society.

This resolution is the start of acknowledging the role of race in our society, an essential step in improving health outcomes, unifying the country, and bringing people out of poverty. Income inequality impacts everyone, but racial and ethnic minorities make up a disproportionate portion of those living in poverty within Pima County. The poverty rates in

Pima County for 2018 were 38.5 percent for Native Americans, 28.1 percent for African Americans, 23.6 percent for Hispanics, and 15.1 percent for Whites. Data also shows that in Pima County, African Americans and Native Americans have elevated rates of premature death and higher child and infant mortality rates than Hispanics, Asians, and Whites.

It is a known fact that systemic racism and poverty negatively impact the social factors that determine a person's health. These factors also affect access to safe, affordable housing, better jobs, quality education, environmental justice, and healthcare access.

We applaud you for taking this step as It is time for us to look at the institutions and structures that govern daily life and eliminate structural racism policies.

We ask you to take this critical step in ensuring Pima County works for everyone and that equity is at the center of everything we do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Veronica Moreno".

Veronica Moreno
Interim City Manager

DEC 03 2020 03:43 PM CLK (LF-H)